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LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1859.

LITERATURE

Observations on Modern Systems of Fortification, including that Proposed by M. Carnot, and a Comparison of the Polygonal with the Bastion System; to which are added, some Reflections on Intrenched Positions, and a Tract on the Naval, Littoral, and Internal Defence of England. By General Sir Howard Douglas, Bart. (Murray.)

FORTY centuries looked down upon the army of Napoleon in Egypt. Forty years have looked down upon the military theories of Sir Howard Douglas. He wrote, indeed, when the Elba Exodus had not yet been consummated at Waterloo, and his opinions have not been disparaged by the influence of time. It was in ie hot atmosphere of war that he replied to the marvellous and self-conscious sophisms of Carnot, who, in all human probability, well understood that his propositions were destruc-tible, for he was arguing to delude, not to teach, the French soldier. In his treatise, celebrated, although by many considered ob-solete, on the defence of fortified places, he addressed himself to the garrisons of the frontier, and to the French forces occupying the numerous conquered citadels of Europe, the object being to convince them that, without peril, and without extraordinary means, they might hold their ground against any multitude of besiegers, however formidably provided. Sir Howard Douglas accepted the challenge thus thrown down. His triumph was so absolute that the greatest commanders and strategists in Europe at once possessed themselves of the work; and France discovered that her brilliant novelty might be swept away in oceans of blood did she rely on the vertical ideas of her popular organizer of war. At that period, Sir Howard Douglas had one set of principles to vindicate; now, after a lapse of time crowded with memorable events, he undertakes to establish another, and the pen which traced so masterly a testament on the art of naval gunnery has produced a treatise on the capacities of England for self-defence.

The author has done, for awhile, with maritime engagements. We look to him for no fresh demonstrations concerning carronades mounted on the poop, or lower-deck guns brought so near a hostile broadside that the fire shall be given whotter than the enemy can suck it," as Nelson said. Perhaps this is the most fascinating aspect of war; nothing is tedious, nothing technical, in a maritime battle; refine or magnify the opposing powers as we will, it comes to the Shannon and Chesapeake at last; the point must be settled within two or three days at the utmost, and may be determined in halfan-hour; whereas a campaign drags itself over weeks or months, and in the siege of a strong fortress the exciting episodes are few. Breaking ground, opening trenches, delivering fire, zig-zagging to a second or third parallel, effecting a breach, and telling-off the columns for assault are lengthy and methodical procresses, and the imagination may be weary cre the forlorn hope is on the ladders. But Sir Howard Douglas, although the first

and second parts of his admirable treatise refer to the defence of fortified places in relation to the views of Carnot, adds a third, which touches the supreme question of the day, the practical chances of an invasion, the material securities enjoyed by England in respect of natural advantages and field tactics, bearing on the configuration of the island, and the organization of rifle volunteers. However, the earlier sections views, which stand midway between the optimist

of the work are intensely interesting, even at this date, since they refer to a problem not yet likely to be solved. Douglas and Carnot are at variance; Wellington supported Douglas, whose principles, to some extent, are identical with those of Fergusson; but the existing Austrian and Prussian fortresses have been generally constructed or remodelled upon Carnot's plan. Moreover, the conditions of fortifi-cations, so to speak, have radically changed since 1819, so that Sir Howard was com-pelled to modify and extend his disquisi-tion in the other contracts the ability ships of the tion in almost every part, his philosophical basis remaining intact, while a rich variety of new details were founded upon it. Artillery is constructed upon improved principles; the ranges of projectiles have been increased; consequently, not a few old-fashioned methods of defence have necessarily been abandoned. But it is not, at present, a controversy between the advocates or assailants of crown works, lunettes, and polygons; of vertical, pitching, or ricochet firing; of Carnot walls or newly-designed counter-slopes; the end and aim of the veteran writer being to inspire confidence among Englishmen, and to suggest the precautions upon which a rational confidence may be grounded. The talk in all circles is of rifle practice and measuring distances, of conical bullets and the qualities of a sword bayonet, of grey and green uniforms, of deadly engines and steel-ribbed frigates. Even at tea-tables, and among the trippers in a dance, the eager inquiry is, whether England shall be invaded? whether Gibraltar is safe? whether the Suez Canal scheme is likely to load a petard under the rocky foundations of the British Isles. The universal answer is, that the future is a mystery—which cannot be denied,—but that, like the Persian proverbialists, we should draw the sword that it may not strike, and bend the bow that we may need no arrow. Hence it has arisen that arsenal foundations are to be dug in Northamptonshire, and that engineering surveys are made on the lone Pembroke coast, especially in the mariner's Paradise at Milford Haven. Sir Howard Douglas, interpreting the ambiguous voices of his countrymen, undertakes to show how Great Britain may guarantee herself against the dan-

gers of attack. The section on Entrenched Camps presents an account of Belgium, when fortified in anticipation of the possible return of such an epoch as that which was closed in 1815, the whole country forming, so to speak, "one vast entrenched camp," the ground between the several fortresses being commanded by them, and so skilfully, that an army of invasion could not come upon it without having its communications. having its communications intercepted every moment. These works were particularly numerous in the south, as though a hint had been taken from the first Napoleon, when he said that whoever occupied the line of the Meuse would be master of Belgium. Yet, Sir Howard Douglas remarks, while deploring the fact, the Belgian fortifications are to be dismantled, because the State cannot adequately garrison them. Ath, Ypres, Menin, and Philippeville have already seen their fortifications razed; every plan for the defence of Brussels has been declared a failure, and Antwerp has been selected as the primary point of resistance to an attack, whether by land or sea.

This question of the defence of Antwerp, is reasoned upon at large, and with authority, by Sir Howard Douglas; who then opens the fascinating argument concerning British na-

and the alarmist. Having fully examined the defensive works which have been constructed by the principal continental States of Europe since the great war which terminated in 1815. he proposes to demonstrate that we, as an insular nation, may remain in perfect safety without undertaking immense military works at an enormous cost. This opinion is vindicated without ignoring steam as a fresh element

in naval warfare:—
"Amongst the changes which steam-propulsion for ships of war will introduce in naval operations may be included the abandonment of the blockade system. For a steam fleet superior in strength to the fleet blockaded—if well supplied with Armthe fleet blockaded—if well supplied with Armstrong's incomparable guns, and other descriptions of rifle cannon, and with abundance of mortars for firing at high elevations—will be able to destroy from afar the fleet, or the arsenal in which the ships are crowded, and, probably, both at the same time. Thus, it will not be necessary to keep a steam fleet before an enemy's port during long intervals of time, as was the case formerly with the well blocked into fleets of sailing abins; which were our blockading fleets of sailing ships; which were, often in vain—from the enemy remaining close in port—kept knocking about in all weathers on the sea, with great danger to the ships, and at enormous expense to the ration." mous expense to the nation."

England took the lead in establishing a steam-navy. She worked out the problem during many years, at a prodigious cost, while France bided her time. She first adopted the screw, which the French, immediately afterwards, made use of in their navy. France has been employed, during a decade past, in point of fact, in endeavouring to assume a position of maritime equality with Great Britain:

"The steam fleet of France has, during the whole of that period, been in a state of progressive augmentation: the Government of that country having steadily acted upon the recommendations propounded in the 'Enquête Parlementaire' having steadily acted upon the recommendations propounded in the 'Enquête Parlementaire' (1849), and it is now equal, if not superior, to that of Great Britain. The author having procured a copy of that document in 1853, deemed it his duty to submit to Her Majesty's Government copious notes and extracts from the proceedings of that commission, showing the vast sums voted and proposed to be employed during the ten years which were to follow. The author, also, pointed out the spirit of rivalry, if not of hostility, both implied and expressed in that official document. These 'Notes' were printed confidentially, in 1853, at 'Notes' were printed confidentially, in 1853, at the private press of the Foreign Office; and he must observe that we ought to have begun as unostentatiously as the French began, to take countervailing measures, in order to maintain the numerical superiority of the British steam fleet, instead of deferring the step, as it was deferred, during several years. By this postponement, the progress made by the French becoming generally known to the public, the country is thrown into consternation by the announcement that there must be made immediate and extensive additions must be made immediate and extensive additions to the British navy, in order to make up for the time which has been lost."

Sir Howard Douglas violates no confidence in referring to the famous "Enquête Parle-mentaire." It was cited in the House of Commons, last July, by Mr. Cobden, "but he gave it a colour very different from that which it clearly shows." Therefore it was right that the clearly snows. Therefore it was right that the paper should be fairly quoted. France has acted upon the decisions of its "Commission d'Enquéte"; Russia, Denmark, Sweden, and Holland, are doing likewise; but France, argues the author, must have a special purpose in

"Preponderating naval power not being essential to the security of France, the effort to acquire it can only be considered as a hostile measure towards Great Britain-to which naval supremacy is indispensable, and must be maintained at any

In the event of war, the French could con-

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centrate their powers at the two seas along the shores of which their great arsenals are established, while the English must scatter their squadrons far and wide, protecting our fifty colonies and universal commerce, taking measures, at the same time, for our security at home. "For both of these great objects," Sir Howard writes, "they cannot provide, with a navy of its present strength":—

"Manning the British navy was, in former times so promptly accomplished by compulsory service, that often the dangers which menaced the country by sea were arrested by a consciousness, on the part of the enemy, that our fleets were fully prepared to oppose any attempt at aggression. But now that we have renounced the practice of compulsory service, and depend upon voluntary enlistment for the supply of seamen to man our ships of war, whilst the French have greatly extended and organized their system of compulsory service to man promptly their fleet, the case is materially altered. Far from being able to deter aggression, we invite it. The commencement of a naval war will always be a period of comparative weakness for us, whatever be the abundance of the material for arming the ships, if the men who are to serve in them are not immediately forthcoming at the time of need. But this being so, there can be no security for England should she reduce her naval and military forces to a peace establishment in the same proportion as the forces of her neighbours may be reduced.

Closing with his subject Sir Howard Douglas is pleased to image, hypothetically, that an invasion had been undertaken, and that the Channel was not adequately guarded. What next, and next? Moor our blockships on the water-way to Liverpool,-swarm out gunboats from Portsmouth and Plymouth,-man the forts on headlands and along the line of bays,—get up steam under the decks of ram-ships, which may charge, stem-on, among transports and rafts, but which should never engage a first-class vessel,-mount forts and fixed batteries at the great commercial ports, towns, and harbours,keep watch over dockyard and arsenal,-and then appeal, not to the God of Battles alone, but to such courage, energy, and skill as may be found in England! If old experience doth attain to something of prophetic strain, the following may remind a cursory reader that the voice he hears is the voice of a veteran :-

"The first alarm excited in England, on the subject of invasion, took place in 1795, when the Duke of York's army was compelled to retire from the Low Countries, and to return to England. In August of that year the author was sent to Teignmouth Castle, to take command of the artillery in the northern district; and, the day after his arrival, he waited upon the general-officer commanding in the northern district, the late General Nesbit Balfour, and presented to him a state of the artillery detachment. It consisted of one subaltern (the author), two sergeants, four corporals, and thirty 1st and 2nd gunners; a non-commissioned officer and three gunners at Sunderland; the like number at Hartlepool, and a detachment of invalid artillery at Berwick. The General said he had made urgent requisitions for a large addition to the artillery in the northern district, but was told that it could not be supplied. There were then only five battalions of artillery in the British service. author proposed, thereupon, that detachments from every regiment in the district, each consisting of a subaltern and thirty privates, should be sent to Tynemouth Castle, there to be drilled to the service of two field-guns for each detachment. This was done, first with two, and afterwards with several detachments in succession; so that each regiment had its two battalion-guns, according to the system which then existed. But in Tyne-mouth Castle, Clifford's Fort, and the low light battery which commanded, by a raking fire, the entrance to the river Tyne, there were fifty or sixty heavy guns in battery, which it was utterly impos-sible to man, and which, apparently, had not been

used for many years, excepting in firing salutes by the artillery detachment. How were they to be manned? The author proposed to the Gene-ral, that a meeting should be called of the merchants, ship-owners, ship-builders, and other members of that public-spirited community, in order to take into consideration the expediency of forming a volunteer corps of young artisans for that local service. This was done. About 500 youths enrolled themselves, were instructed by the artillery detachment in working the guns, in firing blank cartridge, and ultimately in practice with shot at floating targets, in which they became

expert."
Volunteer gunners for the coast batteries, and riflemen for the kingdom at large:

"But roads or railways should be constructed. or those already formed should be improved, along the most accessible parts of the coast, in order to allow moveable coast batteries, consisting of 18-pounders, and other powerful ordnance, with the attendant detachments of artillerymen, to be conveyed rapidly to points at which an enemy might attempt to land, in order to repel such attempt, or prevent it from being made : and the like measures should be adopted for the internal defence of the country, for which the numerous existing roads and railways would afford great facilities. This mode of defence would be far preferable to that of constructing permanent batteries and forming fixed stations for troops; for these might be turned by the invaders, and thus the services which they might render to the country would be paralyzed.

Skirt Kent and Sussex by a railway, and the work would be equivalent to the service of fifty thousand soldiers, sayeth the old man eloquent. Dover is a great fortress; but Deal, Sandwich, and Folkestone might need succour, and what might their loyal people do while waiting for shot, shell, and gunpowder, for red coats and heavy metal, via Ashford and Winchelsea! A little chalk must be displaced, and a little iron put down, to make things safe in

that quarter:

"When the late Duke of Wellington visited the coast defences—on the alarm of an invasion soon after the accession of Louis Napoleon, the present Emperor of France, to the Presidency—His Grace, Emperor of France, to the Presidency—His Grace, being at Seabrook, between Sandgate and Hythe, conversing with his staff and the other officers, the principles of permanent camps and other fixed defences became the subject of discussion: when the Duke used the following expressions. 'Look at those splendid heights all along this coast:—give me communications which admit of rapid flank movement along those heights, and I might set anything at defiance.'"

Similar coursels are addressed to Essey and

Similar counsels are addressed to Essex and Suffolk; there is a project for a steam-raft linking Gravesend with Tilbury Fort; Kent and Essex are warned to unite their "availabilities," as young America would say, and then, still nearing the vital point, we come full upon the march of our hypothetical enemy trooping up from Torbay, leaving the ashes of Portsmouth and Purfleet in his wake; shattered by civilian shots from behind the hedges of Essex and Kent, dashing at Tilbury and grappling with Woolwich. But how, and where, and in the face of what obstacles must he have landed, and is the Channel really bridged? Not so, according to the indomitable, yet not indiscreet, Sir Howard Douglas:-

"The Armstrong gun, and other rifle cannon of long range, will afford the defenders of the country a vast advantage, in keeping, by their fire, the ships of the invaders at a great distance from the shore; and, independently of these, the pretended steam-bridge must necessarily terminate where the water becomes too shallow for ships of war, and transports having a considerable draught of water,

When on precipitous coasts, or on gently sloping beaches, the defenders have an advan--we are still summarizing the author's exposition-and, exactly in proportion as steam

would be useful to an invader it must be valuwould be useful to an invaluer it must be valuable to ourselves. That which is swift upon the land. Nevertheless, allowing for every facility of concentration, Channel fleets and long-range batteries included, the "bloody tooth" is, sup-posititiously, fixed into our soil; and how to

extract it?

"When the invading troops are in the boats, and the landing is about to be attempted, the fire of the ships covering the landing must necessarily cease when masked by the debarking troops; the defenders should then advance in quick succession to oppose the enemy at the point of the bayonet, the men fighting, if necessary, up to their knees in water. Should the invaders gain firm ground, they may be charged by cavalry at that moment of weakness when the squads of men landed from the boats are at very open order, in consequence of the line of boats from which they issue being of far greater extent than that which the troops occupy when formed in line, and before they can form, load, and concentrate upon the respective centres of regiments. The invaders will bring on shore chevaux de frise, which they will endeavour to place in their front, in order to protect them against such a charge: in this case, the defenders should immediately rush forward and remove them, or, taking post behind them, convert what was intended for a protection to the invaders into an obstacle to their advance. Everything should be done to create and keep up a mêlée on the beach by a hand-to-hand fight with armes blanches as long as possible, to prevent the fire of the covering ships from impeding the formations of the defending troops on the neighbouring heights; and, in such melies, arms in the hands of the stalwart peasants of England would effect as much against the enemy as those in the hands of regular soldiers."

Modern improvements in gunnery have much to do with this system of national defence. They seem, so far, to have established the superiority of land over sea batteries. Artillery mounted upon wheeled carriages might be employed with powerful effect against an invading armada; mortars, laid along the beach, and combining their fire with that of troops in the rear, might decisively check a landing. "This, at least, is the way in which the author determined to use such artillery, had the enemy afforded the opportunity, in 1803." Up to this point we have surveyed professional ground; we now reach the opinion of authority upon

amateur soldiering.

Sir Howard Douglas served in Spain; he estimated the influence exercised by desultory warfare carried on by men without discipline, and almost without arms; he saw what they were capable of doing against crack regiments and martinet organization; he was convinced that the same spirit, animating a superior body, might render any country impregnable, -and what more or better could he say for the British rifle volunteers? The Spanish people, forming into bands of partisans, styled guerillas, and inspired by their nationality, disconcerted the great armies of France and thwarted the most adroit Marshals of Napoleon. Sir Howard Douglas enjoyed peculiar opportunities of comprehending and estimating their system of warfare. He was employed, in 1811, in the north of Spain, to inspect and report upon the state of the armies of Galicia and the Asturias, and on the military resources of those provinces, and to ascertain how far the guerillas might be made available. All the Spanish regular armies had been defeated and dispersed at Tudela, Rio-secco, Espinossa, and Reguossa; but the volunteers abided by their soil, and saved it :-

"In these perambulations, through districts said to be occupied by the French—but of which they possessed only a few block-houses, redoubts, or fortified convents, as posts of refuge, which they

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had established—the author witnessed the prodi-gious effect of the uncompromising resistance of the people to the invaders, which constituted so re-by a foe; and England be made invincible." had established—the author witnessed the prodigious effect of the uncompromising resistance of the
people to the invaders, which constituted so remarkable a feature in that patriotic war. Though
accompanied only by his aide-de-camp, one servant,
and a Spanish dragoon, he was in no danger. The
French, if occupying towns, retired at night to
their fortified posts; when the guerillas entered to
refresh and regale themselves among the townfolks. At daylight in the morning, the guerillas
withdrew from the town; which the French then
entered, and, during the day, associated with the
people. But, in general, the French troops remained renfermes dans leurs coquilles."
Wellington anyoged in defensive was

Wellington approved, in defensive war-fare, of the volunteer principle. He regarded it as a most valuable adjunct of the regular army;—he held it out as a system to be imi-tated by every nation resolved upon preserving, at any cost, its historical independence.

The instructions given by Sir Howard Douglas for the formation of rifle-corps are precise and clear, in the military sense of the terms. That is to say, they may be construed as dogmatic or otherwise, as the reader—lay or professional-may be prompted by his instincts to interpret them.

One further quotation from this thoroughly national "tract," and we pass it to the general reader; it is a summary of the whole:—

"England should, place reliance only in her own measures to provide effectually for the safety of the state; and, in a cause so righteous, put her trust in Almighty God, that he will bless with success the plans formed by human skill, with the appliances of human means, to enable her to repel any unprovoked aggression that may be attempted against her independence, and thus avert from this highly favoured land the greatest of national calamities. To put England in a state of perfect security, in the manner stated in this paper, there must be, as has been said, 1st, a standing navy fully adequate to the protection of her colonies and her commerce in every region of the earth, and moreover to maintain a decided superiority in the British Channel. 2ndly, There must be an efficient army, at home, subject to reduction on a peace establishment in proportion as the naval resources of the country are developed, that development extending to the are developed, that development extending to the full of what may be required in a state of war. 3rdly, The militia must be completely enrolled by resort to the Ballot, all trained by rotation of regiments during peace, and be ready for embodiment. 4thly, The irregular forces of the country all enrolled and complete on paper, and exercised in their peculiar duties, must be ready to spring into active existence by proclamation. 5thly, the naval arsenals, harbours, and roadsteads must be well fortified, equipped, and garrisoned. The capital covered and protected from insult, in the best manner that military experience can suggest, con-sistently with the means at our disposal, and with the general defence and safety of the whole country. the general defence and satety of the whole country. of thely, the military arsenal or arsenals must be established in the most convenient point or points in the interior of the country. Coast-roads and railways must be constructed along the shores most accessible to an enemy, and the moveable batteries of ordnance must be stored in stations floss to the lines by which these batteries may be close to the lines by which those batteries may be rapidly moved to threatened points. 7thly, forts and fixed batteries must be constructed for the defence of all the great commercial cities and communities throughout the kingdom—particularly on the Mersey, the Clyde, the Tyne, and the Forth. These must be laid out by skilful engineers, and armed with the powerful ordnance of the present day; they must be manned by volunteer gunners, raised by the public spirit of those commercial communities, and their exercises for instruction must continue without intermission even in time of peace: there will thus be left available for the defence of the naval arsenals, harbours, and road-steads, and for service of the army in the field, all the well-trained artillerymen, of whom, but for such aid, the country could not furnish a sufficient

This new and amplified edition of the treatise on Fortification contains more than might be expected from the title-page. It is a promise and a prophecy addressed to the British people. The light of history, of personal experience, of philosophical reasoning, falls broadly and vividly upon it. Sir Howard Douglas is a writer whose authority all must recognize; and it is matter of interest, whether to politician in his studio, or to the calico-snipper in his warehouse, to know why foreign bayonets threaten, and how they may be bent or blunted, or, still better, warned away. After all, it is history, and not hypothesis, that Sir Howard Douglas

Masks and Drolls: Italian Comedy—[Masques et Bouffons, &c.]. The Text and Drawings by Maurice Sand, the Preface by George Sand. (Paris, Lévy; London, Jeffs.)

It is not new on the part of this journal to point out that the Italian theatre, whether serious or comic, has not yet received its due among lettered dramatic people in this country. There is Mr. Walker's 'Memoir on Italian Drama,' we know; but the book is next to forgotten.—Here and there, too, a traveller touching Carnival scenes and Church festivals among Southern shows has spoken in due order of the puppet-plays—of that dirtiest abode of broad fun, the Teatro San Carlino, at Naples, and of other like matters.—Lady Morgan's clever pages on the subject in her 'Life of Salvator Rosa' are not forgotten; nevertheless, the subject may be described as dormant, even among well-read persons. Many such would be surprised were the small extent of their knowledge, and consequent unfairness of appreciation, suddenly set before them.—They have a distant acquaintance with Metastasio and Alfieri, because the works of those poets have been mercilessly hackneyed as school-books. They know a little of Goldoni. Cer-tain moderns who "sympathize" have heard of Manzoni, Marenco, Pellico, and Niccolini. This is nearly as far as the generality can go; and this step is in nine cases out of ten not taken without the self-complacency of persons who condescend from more real and solid Drama, such as contain England's wealth of noble poetry and humour, or the sparkle of French wit, or the sublimities of German sentiment. What has been said was curiously illustrated by the temper, still more by the talk, of the audiences who frequented the performances of Madame Ristori. That very peculiarity which should have attracted, was, in a large measure, bewildering, even to intelligent and not prejudiced witnesses. It seemed to occur to few, that besides the presence of genius, which is universal, there was discernible in her acting a distinct and delightful national humour, which set the show apart as one having a poetry and an instruction and an excitement all its own.—Year by year, however, there is some genuine progress in catholicity, as well as in enthusiasm, to be noted among thinkers, dreamers, and admirers in England. Our musicians are beginning to be aware of the existence of French music, our painters no longer to jeer at French painters.—Men of mark are labouring in many far separate and neglected fields of work. Even the theatre, as an estate of labour, is no longer to be shunned. Pagan plays, from the rare land of the East, are brought home to us by such interpreters as Prof. Wilson, who show us how much there is in them, number. Thus prepared in all respects, the coast besides their poetry and remoteness. The

drama of Spain is finding an able and indefati-gable English expositor in Mr. John R. Chorley. Perhaps—who knows?—there may be at this moment some other man of culture busy in his library over the pantomimic passion, the emo-tion true to humanity, which is comprised within the walls of Italy's theatre.

Meanwhile, this book is thoroughly acceptable. If not essentially brilliant (with all its outward splendours) it is welcome, as helping to open a door into a fairy-land, where many might like to walk if a few perwhere many might like to walk if a few persons of quality lead the way, and did they not, like Millamant, loathe all ruralities, save those of Pall Mall and May Fair. Splendid, indeed, is the form of these two volumes, illustrated by fifty plates of costume figures, deliciously engraved by M. Manceau. How far the dresses may be relied on as exact we cannot say; they are, at all events, graceful, characteristic, well varied. The wearers of them have been studied with care by M. Maurice Sand; but his touch wants something of the impulse demanded for the artist who would seize Southern gesticulation. The hands of his figures are less Italian than they should be; their faces, too, are less speaking than those of the real *Truffaldini* and Colombine, who are to keep up the ball of improvised comedy with incessant animation. It is impossible to turn over his designs and to forget those by Callot.

So important to this book is its form that for once, in criticism, the dress claims precedence over the thing dressed.—After the clothes are admired, suppose we try to define Italian comedy, as explaining the sense of the title of this book-the comedy of instantaneous situation and unpremeditated reply.—Most persons have seen a "charade" in England, a dramatic trifle, in which "battle, murder, or sudden death," or sea-sickness, or the finding of a nugget, or some political catastrophe, as fore-told by Dr. Cumming, has to be wrought out in an inconvenient drawing-room, by men who are too confident and women who are too shy -folk who cross each other when they should sit down, and who sit down when they should cross, so as to put one another out "confoundedly,"—who, nevertheless, make the scenes amusing, in a certain sense. 'La Commedia dell' Arte,' of the Italians, that theatrical mine which has yielded to us our Christmas Harlequin, Columbine, Pantaloon, and Clown, is virtually a "charade," presented by hardened and habituated people, but within less wild limits.—On the practicable stage (even with the stories of the old "machines" against us) there is no representing a balloon ascent, nor an acrobat crossing Niagara.—What is more, if the masquers and drolls who filled the ranks of 'La Commedia dell' Arte' in Italy, had entertained such ambitious fancies of thus exhibiting the actual wonders of the world, as stir all manner of private Harlequins and Columbines in our country-houses, they might have found a dull audience. Italian society cared little, we suspect, for marvel or discovery—save for the discoveries of petty scandal made by itself. It might be amusing to poke at the Cardinal who was unpopular, or at the lady who had too many male house-friends—all devout chocolate drinkers (the eternal chocolate of Goldoni), at the lady's husband's cost;—but for such width of subject as we wanted in England, having a Shakspeare to answer the want,—for such variety of type, drawn from social life, as Molière managed to bring out for the world's delight (next in this to Shakspeare), there seems to have been small room or desire in Italy.—The theatre of that country has been always essentially mimic, rather than literary, and yet not, therefore, a

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theatre to be despised in Europe's great dramatic congress. The action of the Italians is certainly more natural, more varied, more regardless of rules and habits, than that of any other school of European actors. thus, when left with the meagre skeleton of the story to be exhibited, the best of them will not only fill and clothe this, and infuse blood into it, by mere presentment, but also, when permitted, as in the 'Commedia dell' Arte,' fling into it jets of repartee, or humour for the minute, which no study seems able to bring to their poets. The executant, in brief, is half the dramatist.

After four pages of prologue, or prelude, claimed (as was only graceful) from his mother, by M. Maurice Sand, he enters on a rather elaborate preface by a declaration which is characteristic enough, and, moreover, to the point of the above paragraphs. His attention, it appears, was drawn to the subject during a series of improvised whimsies, acted many years ago in a country-house, from which, by the way, it may be divined whence Madame Dudevant derived the idea of her 'Chateau des

Desertes.

M. Maurice Sand's introduction, classing the drolls of improvised comedy, assigning to each his proper birthplace, tracing his migrations, and the descendants which were the consequence of these, seems carefully done, though our author does not always keep proportion due, as, for instance, in the cases of Carlo Gozzi and Ruzzante. The latter mime and dramatic author, in 1528, by his first comedy, opened the vein of Italian dialect and patois. M. Sand conceives that this book of his disinters a great genius in Ruzzante, and writes of his genius with the zeal and ardour of one bringing longlost treasure to light. We will pause on this separate chapter in preference to giving an inventory of the contents of the entire volumes.

Angelo Beolco was born at Padua in 1502, wrote and directed and acted his plays there; and contrived to win himself the repute of a Plautus and Roscius-this, as M. Sand reminds us, during a period "when Ariosto, aged twenty, had already composed and produced, at the Court of the Duke of Ferrara, his comedy, 'I Suppositi,'—when the dramas of Nicholas Machiavel were in being, -when 'La Calandra' had been written by Cardinal Bibbiena. Yet, all these eminent men, we are assured by M. Sand, were inferior in stage-craft to Beolco. He had the courage, too, to venture on the comedy of real popular life and manners. During his short life of forty years he gained a great and genial reputation, though a fame inevitably transient. He seems to have lived principally as guest of a magnificent and liberal Venetian, Aloysio Cornelio; for whose palace venetian, Aloysic Contents, by a decidency at Codevigo many of Ruzzante's entertainments were contrived. The actors who aided him were frequently, if not always, young Paduan nobles of high character: among them Marco Aurelio Alvarotto, Hieronimo Zanetta, Castegnola, and the host Cornelio.-Ruzzante is described as a cordial, sweet-tempered manaffable in his manner, ready in wit. His town of Padua made a stately funeral for him when he died, in 1542, and in 1560 a monument was erected to him in the Church of St. Daniel, with an inscription, at which orthodoxy took offence, and which was subsequently removed.

This is nearly, if not all that is known of the life of one who in his time, and in his place, was a popular idol, and the relics of whose talent existing excite the liveliest admiration. M. Maurice Sand gives many citations from Ruzzante's dramas. They turn mostly on domestic stories, in which peasant dialects were freely used. They are singularly clear, we are assured,

of licentiousness, the period taken into account. So far as M. Sand's translations are warrant. we fancy that Beolco's published letters might have more charm for the English than his idylls. But the latter were, many of them, written in Paduan; from that dialect translated into Italian; and here undergo a third process. Then they were, in some sort, coloured and filled up, in obedience to the whim or pathos of the moment; so that we are in no case to measure their worth, save by observing its reflection on spectators or contemporaries having ampler means of comparison. It may be as well to add, that the published remains of Ruzzante, comprising five comedies,— La Piovana, 'L'Anconitana,' 'La Moschetta,' 'La Vaccaria,' 'La Fiorina,'—Discourses, Peasant Dialogues, exist in three editions,-one of Venice (1555), two of Vicenza (1598 and 1617).

The pages on Carlo Gozzi,—the last author of Italian comedy admitting improvisation, whose name has a literary interest,—claim a word ere, in consideration of the impatience of our own winter play-goers, who are waiting for London's Harlequin, Pantaloon, Columbine, and Clown, we have done. It is easy to understand why the domestic realities of Ruzzante should be more congenial to M. Maurice Sand than the fantastic freaks of Gozzi's fairy legends. Nevertheless, for a writer who has chosen this particular field of critical labour, he speaks of Carlo Gozzi's plays with a somewhat disproportioned restraint. The fascination of them is unspeakable, and has been felt as such by strong and serious men of letters all the world over. Extravagant as they are in every impossible incident, in every combination of glitter and gloom, -here whimsical to the wildest mirth, there tracical to the bitterest tears,-they are somehow pervaded by a truth and reality which reconcile the very sharpest contrasts, the most monstrous inventions, the most instant changes of emotion. They hold us as fast as do the 'Arabian Nights.' Nor, though Academical distinctions and delicacies of language were unstudied by Carlo Gozzi, must it be overlooked that the grave portions of these singular creations contain excellent Italian poetry, attaining an intensity to which the vaunted Metastasio never could rise, and containing a music such as the rugged Alfieri had not in his soul.—It was thought, and with every probability, that the exclusive possession by Goldoni of the Venetian stage, his marvellous fecundity, the tone of graceful society which pervades some of his comedies, the quaint and rarely gross satire to be found in others of them,—had sealed the doom of his rival's burlesques, arabesques, extravaganzas. Carlo Gozzi thought so himself. Certain it is that Austrian Venice might now be ransacked from end to end, and its old books in calle, and arcade and riva, turned with small chance of the 'Fiabe' of Carlo Gozzi tumbling up, or of the book-hunter coming nearer to his mark of inquiry than by being answered with the dull proprieties of Gasparo Gozzi. Yet this does not imply death altogether. That Gozzi took Venice into Austria, the popular theatres of the Vienna Prater (for one of which Mozart's 'Magic Flute' was written, to a book awkwardly imitating a Gozzi fairy-piece) testified for many a long day. There were faint traces of him to be found there within the last ten years. In a more remote period, Schiller, by naturalizing "Turandot," in some measure set the fantastic Venetian playwright among the classic authors of the north-German theatre. Even in England Carlo Gozzi has never been altogether out of the memory of those whose fancies lie in a peculiar direction. These "Masques" of M. Maurice Sand make

up a superb Christmas book, which will hardly

be equalled, whether in luxury or curiosity, by any home or foreign offering:—a book, too, of sound permanent value. Why, seeing that he has entered the spangled domain with so much industry and real sympathy, should he not, some seven years hence, or sooner, give the world an illustrated and paraphrased version of the "Fables" of Carlo Gozzi?

Leaves from an Actor's Note-Book; with Reminiscences and Chit-chat of the Green Room and the Stage in England and America. By George Vandenhoff. (New York, Appleton & Co.; London, Trübner & Co.)

FORTY years have elapsed since the name of Vandenhoff became known to the London then bearer of it being the Vandenhoff, and father of the author of this book—with the names of Edmund Kean, Young, Charles Kemble, and Macready. He was the first of

his race who became an actor.

The Vandenhoffs of course came over with the Conqueror:—not with the first, but the third William. The Dutchman has as much to boast of, and England through him, as the Norman. He gave us freedom, and to the ancestral Dutchman of the author permission "to use armorial bearings, with the crest, a mailed hand and sword, with the motto, En Avant!" The legend in the Vandenhoff family is, that these words, En Avant! (Forward!) were the exclamation made and the order given by a Vandenhoff to his company, on leaping ashore at Torbay, suiting the action to the word, with his sword in his mailed hand.

Capital actor that ancestral Dutchman must have been! There was no enemy in sight, or truth, history, and Mr. Ward's picture are all wrong. There were no mailed hands in all wrong. There were no mailed hands in 1688,—gloved fists under sword-guards in plenty. That he "suited the action to the plenty. That he "suited the action to the word," shows that he had read 'Hamlet' to some purpose. Perhaps the ancestral stager was dreaming of that stout eagle-bearer of Cæsar's legion who once landed more to the eastward. But, however this may be, it is clear that the ancestor was an actor, nay, a manager —the author speaks of "his company,"—and a liberal manager, for among them he distributed a good many "orders."

Strange, too, it is, that our ancestor, who came to help William to enact a play with a charming plot, one end of which was the over-throw of Romanism, was himself a Catholic. The Vandenhoff family has always belonged to the Church of Rome. The Salisbury dyer, father of the Vandenhoff, was a zealous member of it, and designed his son for a priest. John Vandenhoff, however, took to the stage; but he set his son, George, to the law. George had an excellent position at Liverpool, but he, too, surrendered it for a player's vocation. The pressure that drove him thereto, as he tells us, was not pecuniary, "it was nearer the heart than the pocket;" and by turning actor, he believes that he "saved himself from insanity, perhaps from a drunkard's

Well, he found a good friend in Madame Vestris, who enabled him, in October, 1839, to appear at Covent Garden as Leon, in 'Rule a Wife and have a Wife.' He honestly states that the press left the public in a state of indecision as to whether the new actor was the greatest of geniuses or of idiots. Since that period, he has, after one fashion or another, here as abroad, held his own; and in America

writes this book.

We cite a few extracts, touching on matters theatrical here and beyond the Atlantic. '59

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Boulogne, nor was she abandoned; Elton the actor was not drowned on his way to Glasgow; and Mr. Macready first appeared at Bath, on the 29th of October, 1814. He made his début as Romeo; and the sight of an Adelphi play-bill reminds us that of all who an Adelphi play-bill reminds us that of all who played with him on that night one survives. The airy Stanley (Mercutio) is gone; and so is the large-eyed Bengough (Capulet); Friar Law-rence (Charlton) has left son and grandsons in a profession in the Church. The Peter, the Lady Capulet, and the Nurse,—Woulds, Mrs. Weston, and Mrs. Jarman, are in their own rather than the tomb of the Capulets; but the Juliet of that night, to Mr. Macready's Romeo, is still busy on the stage, as of yore. Not so dazzling now as then, but still an excellent actress. She was then, in 1816, and is now, Mrs. W. S. Chatterley.

Here, however, is an incident undoubtedly correct :-

"The slavish copying of Macready revealed the The slavish copying of Macready revealed the Theatre's barrenness of original genius, and was, at the same time, a cause of its decay. It was pushed to such an extent at Macready's own theatre, that the very supers who carried a banner adopted 'the eminent tragedian's' rolling walk; and the man who delivered a message gave it out with 'the eminent's' extra -syllabification of utterance. It was really a singularly strange thing to see, in the tragedy of 'Gisippus,' for example, (which Mr. Macready brought out at Drury Lane with great care and taste,) at one view, a whole company surrendering their own identities with plastic subsurrendering their own identities with plastic sub-servience, and melting themselves down into the Macready mould. There was Anderson in Ful-vius, who had caught the master's tones, slides and angularites, sway and action, till they seemed almost his own: the assumption was so complete, that some people would have it he was Mac's son. Then came Hudson as Chræmes, who had been indoctrinated into the same routine, only on a higher pitch, with a dash of flippancy thrown in, like an acid, to give effervescence to the mixture: then came Helen Faucit, as Sophronia, who, having commenced her career under 'the eminent's' management, was entirely made up of his mannerisms,

Subdued even to the very quality of her lord, redeemed only by the charms of her own feminine sweetness;—and last, George Bennett as Lycias, a violent exaggeration of every singularity, angu-larity, and formality of the Macreadian method. These were the principal characters. Then came the subordinates and supers, all formed on the same model, crying in the same tune, and rolling with the same swinging gait! * * When they came to-gether, it was a great organ, and you had to watch the mouths of the speakers to see which stop was playing; nor could you always keep your mind clear as to how all these people could be engaged in plots and counterplots for intermarrying with, or destroying each other, when it seemed evident that they were all members of the same family, and so ought to be barred, by ties of consanguinity, from schemes of love or intrigue. * * He had, too, a mania for inoculating every one from his own system: he was a Narcissus in love with his own form-alities; and he compelled, as far as he could, all within his influence to pay him the worship of imitation. It was, I believe, Mrs. W. Clifford, mother-in-law of Harrison the singer, who well rebuked this tyrannic egoism. He had been went rebused this tyrannic egoism. He had been remoreslessly hammering a speech into her ears at rehearsal, in his staccato, extra-syllabic manner, when she very coolly, but very decidedly, told him that she much preferred her own style, and declined to change it for his; adding, as she opened her eyes and expanded her hands and mouth, with a strong crescendo/emphasis on the word all:—

If this gross on we shall be AM Mercadus! 'If this goes on, we shall be ALL Macreadys!' The 'eminent's' battery was silenced at once."

Occasionally, we remember, the imitation was

carried out with rich buriesque enect. Never more so than when 'Fortunatus' followed 'Macbeth,' when Mr. C. Selby, in the former piece, gave one of the most finely exaggerated caricatures of Mr. Macready in the latter piece that eve ever saw or ear heard. The manager properly took it as a compliment.

A family scene at Liverpool is suggestive:-

"During this year, I played with my father and sister at Liverpool—the first, and only time that we ever appeared together. The plays selected were 'Romeo and Juliet,' 'As You Like It,' 'Ion,' 'The Wife,' 'Love,' 'The Hunchback,' and 'The Bridal of Messina': the latter we played four nights in succession. Our joint engagement created considerable interest, and drew fine houses; but my father, I was sorry to see, was very ill at ease in playing with me, and I felt no less géne with him. He could not get over his feeling of disappointment at my having adopted the stage as a profession: this affected his acting, and I saw that it did; it was continually betraying itself, and destroying his abstraction, and his self-identifica-tion with his character, for the night. My sister was aware of this, too, and, of course, she was unpleasantly acted on by her consciousness of it. In fact, it threw us all off our balance; and we were very uncomfortable all round. The audience, of course, knew nothing of these 'secret stings': to course, knew nothing of these secret stings: to them, the affair was a delight, and to us, in their eyes, a triumph. They applauded, and called, and bouquet'd us, night after night, regarding us as the happiest most united, mutually-contented family party ever seen upon any stage!

How Miss Cushman took the English stage, by force of expletive, is pleasantly told :-

"The manner in which she obtained her first engagement in London, is so characteristic of the spirit and *pluck* of the woman, that I cannot resist telling it, as it was related to me by Maddox, the manager of the Princess's Theatre (1845). On her first introduction to him, Miss Cushman's personal gifts did not strike him as exactly those sonal glus du not serie min as exactly table which go to make up a stage heroine, and he de-clined engaging her. Charlotte had certainly no great pretensions to beauty; but she had perse-verance and energy, and knew that there was the right metal in her: so she went to Paris, with a view to finding an engagement there, with an English company. She failed, too, in that, and returned to England, more resolutely than ever bent on finding employment there; because it was now more than ever necessary to her. It was a matter of life and death, almost. She armed her-self, therefore, with letters (so Maddox told me) from persons who were likely to have weight with him, and again presented herself at the Princess's; but the little Hebrew was obdurate as Shylock, and still declined her proffered services. Repulsed, but not conquered, she rose to depart; but, as she reached the door, she turned and exclaimed: 'I know I have enemies in this country; but-(and here she cast herself on her knees, raising her clenched hand aloft) so help me ——! I'll defeat Macbeth, and the prophetic spirit of Meg Merrilies. 'Helho!' said Madox, to himself, 's'help me! she's got de shtuff in her!' and he gave her an appearance, and afterwards an engagement in his theatre. She opened there with Mr. Forrest, in 'Macbeth;' and carried away the honours of the night. It was on this occasion that those marks of disapprobation were showered on the great American actor, which so highly incensed him, and which were attributed by him with great injustice, I believe, to Mr. Macready's influence, and were so fatally revenged in 1849, at the Astor Place Opera House; when Mr. Macready was driven from that: Ze, and compelled to fly, probably, for his life. Innocent victims fell outside the theatre on that dreadful night, who had no hand or part in the quarrel, perhaps scarcely a knowledge of its

One American incident has a strong Hibernian flavour in it:-

We must, however, premise that much of its gossip is incorrect, and, with the Latin quotations, requires revisal. We may just hint to the author, that Mrs. Jordan did not die at piece, gave one of the most finely exaggerated benefit night. Mrs. Farren, then the regular actress of the Never of the St. Charles Theatre, was the Pauline; and in the scene in the cottage where, on Beauseant's producing a pistol, she falls fainting into Claude's of the St. Charles Theatre, was the Pauline; and in the scene in the cottage where, on Beauseant's producing a pistol, she falls fainting into Claude's arms,—as I carried the lady up the stage, to place her in a chair, a voice from the pit cried out in a very excited tone,

'Kiss her! by -, kiss her!'

'Kiss her!' by —, kiss her!'

I felt my cheek 'tingle with indignation; and an involuntary shrinking of Pauline, on my arm, telli me that she felt the affront, too. I placed her calmly on the chair; turned, walked slowly down to the footlights, and stood there in silence, casting my eye round the foremost seats of the parquet, with a view to detect the offender. The audience was still as death, for about half a minute; then, suddenly, like a flash of lightning, a thought seemed to strike them; I beheld a man seized, raised off his feet, and literally passed through the air, from hand to hand, across the parquet, till he was outside the door, before he could know whither was outside the door, before he could know whither he was going! The whole was the work of about ten seconds; and, after a hearty cheer, I went on with the text. The words which followed,

'There! we are strangers now, spoken by Claude with reference to his position thenceforth with Pauline, the house immediately applied to the stranger whom they had ejected, and greeted them with the most uproarious laughter, and another cheer!"

and another cheer!"

The sketches of Mr. Macready in America are worth reading, but they are too long for us. We will conclude, therefore, by stating that the result of Mr. George Vandenhoff's stage experiences is, that, successful as he has been, he had been wiser had he stuck to the desk and cash-box of his law-office, and that a man had better "go to anything or anywhere, that will give him an honest and decent livelihood, than go upon the stage."

A Critical Examination of the Text of Shake-speare. By W. G. Walker. 3 vols. (J. R. Smith.)

The Sonnets of William Shakespeare re-arranged and divided into Four Parts. (J. R. Smith.) The Works of Shakespeare. By R. G. White. Vols. VI., VII. and VIII. (Boston, Brown & Co.)

SEVEN more volumes for the Shakspeare shelf! Text, commentary, wrangle, disquisition, and conjecture—tragedy, comedy, pastoral—still it comes! The Shakspeare literature will soon be as vast in bulk as the Dante literature—a library of itself. It already has its students,—
it will soon have its professors,—and, by-andby, it may have its martyrs. More than one
of the chosen commentators would probably go to the stake for his gloss or his restoration with delight; and we see evidence rising up around us daily that the spirit which raised the faggots in Smithfield for religion is in literature not

As we cannot enter into grave debate on Shakspeare every week, or at everybody's call, we must content ourselves now with briefly noting the characteristics of these seven volumes, and so passing them on to readers with a particular rather than a merely general interest in the several themes.

Mr. Walker's learning and acuteness as a Shakspearian critic are well understood. The three volumes of minute textual criticism now published from his papers, with an introductory
Preface by Mr. W. N. Lettsom, will not lessen
his reputation. Very often we find ourselves
differing from Mr. Walker on readings and interpretations; but we seldom differ from him without respect for his scholarship and care. His are not the wild guesses at truth which neither gods nor men have stomach to endure; "I must mention an incident which interrupted but the suggestions of a trained intelligence and a chastened taste. Future editors and

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commentators will be bound to consult these volumes, and consider their suggestions.

The volume on Shakspeare's Sonnets is a timid little mystery. Southampton seems to be the author's favourite for the honour of being "Mr. W. H., the only begotten of these Sonnets." But we are not sure. The speculator is afraid to commit himself by an indiscreet guess. He only plays about. A great discovery which he hints at having made is, that Shakspeare meant the Sonnets as a personal mystification, and that late in life he wrote his grand play of 'Antony and Cleopatra' to explain the mystery. Cæsar, Antony, Cleopatra, Octavia, and the rest, are not, then, the heroes and heroines of antiquity, but merely William Shakspeare and his friends and foes. This, at least, seems to be the author's meaning. His argument is clouded with words; and, when he affects to be most in earnest, he is a trifle less explicit than ever. Regard for the shortness of life makes us hesitate to recommend any reader of ours to waste five minutes on such a book. If we had a very hot-headed, uncomfortable friend, we might recommend it to him as an act of discipline.

The three additional volumes of Mr. R. G. White's 'Works of Shakespeare' (VI., VII. and VIII. of the series) contain the historical plays from 'King John' to 'Henry the Eighth.' The first volume, with the Life and Prefaces, is still kept back. The character of the work remains the same as when we reviewed the first instalment of volumes a year ago. There is a good deal of annotation, often of an ingenious and valuable kind. In other respects, too, the edition is very good. We have in England, among books regularly published, nothing to compare with it for goodness of paper and beauty of type. It is a credit to the American trade.

Chronica Johannis de Oxenedes. Edited by Sir Henry Ellis, K.H. Published by the Authority of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, under the Direction of the Master of the Rolls. (Longman & Co.)

On turning to the list of the members of the Society of Antiquaries, we see that Sir Henry Ellis was elected a member of that learned body in the January of the year 1807. The age of eighty-two years,—of which nearly fifty-three, more than half-a-century, have been employed in antiquarian activity,—is surely enough to disarm criticism, if we were inclined to look very critically into the volume before us. However, there is not much in the volume to call for stormy remarks. It is the text of a monastic Chronicle, edited, with care, from the original manuscript preserved in the British Museum; to which are prefixed some remarks on the authorship and history of the document, and on one or two points which are touched upon in it, with an Appendix of a few documents illustrating the text, and a laboriously compiled and useful Index; all very creditable to the editor.

The Chronicle of John of Oxenedes is not one of the more valuable class of mediæval Chronicles, such as Matthew Paris, or Simeon of Durham, or Henry of Huntingdon. It was the custom in almost every monastic house to have a chronicle, or historical register, which was, no doubt, a very useful book of reference for the dates of accessions and births of kings, and of important historical events, in regard to various questions of interest which might arise in the monastery. The compilation of this book was intrusted to one of the monks, who either went to some other house, where there was a chronicle of some authority, or his house bor-

rowed the manuscript; and from this work of authority he copied or abridged, adding matters relating to the history of his own monastery or the neighbourhood, and any other matters he might think desirable. The character of these additions depends very much upon that of the compiler. Sometimes they go no further than the record of the deaths of abbots of the monastery to which the chronicle belongs, and the names of their successors, with the dates of some of the principal benefactions conferred upon it. In other cases, the compiler makes entries of various minor occurrences connected with the neighbourhood in which he lived, which are interesting to us, though not thought worthy of note by the larger and more general contemporary chroniclers; while in others some monk who took a larger interest in the political affairs of his country gives us his own impressions of events, or tells us circumstances and anecdotes which he had learnt from others. It is hardly needful to say that the chronicles of this latter class are by far the most valuable. On the contrary, the one which is now under our consideration is only a rather poor sample of the second of these classes of compilations. Its author was probably born at Oxenedes, now Oxnead, in Norfolk, from whence he took his name, and was evidently a monk of the monastery of St. Benet Holme, in the same county, of which monastery this book is, in fact, the chronicle. John de Oxenedes took no great pains to collect his historical materials, inasmuch as in this respect his chronicle is little more than a bare abbreviation from the well-known history by Matthew Paris. He has entered under their respective dates the successions of the abbots St. Benet Holme, as well as circumstances under which charters were granted or confirmed to the abbey, or cases in which they were dis-puted in courts of law. He has also commemorated a few events of a miscellaneous character; but these consist chiefly-indeed, almost entirely—of notices of the seasons and observa-tions of natural phenomena, such as floods, storms, earthquakes, and the like, especially when they occurred in Norfolk. Such entries as these, indeed, constitute the interest of John de Oxenedes' Chronicle; and they are worthy of notice in connexion with science.

Thus a succession of entries in this chronicle tend to throw considerable light on the history of the encroachments of the sea on the eastern coasts of our island. Under the date of 1250, John de Oxenedes informs us, "At the same time the sea began to be agitated, in dense darkness, and in its agitation passed beyond its usual bounds, and occupied parts of the coast which nobody had ever seen under sea before." Again, in the year following, "The sea, flowing and swelling horribly, passed its accustomed bounds, and laid claim to land beyond them." Passing over intervening potices we find a later project the contraction. notices, we find at a later period the entry, "In the year of grace 1287, in the night of the Circumcision of our Lord, buildings were overthrown both by the vehemence of the wind and by the violence of the sea at Yarmouth, Dunwich, Ipswich, and other divers places in England, and other regions adjacent to the sea; and especially in that part of England which is called Mersland (marshland), where nearly the whole country was turned into a pool of water, and an intolerable multitude of men were in-tercepted by the waters and drowned." Another equally extraordinary inundation happened some months later :- "In the same year, on the 27th of December, the sea, in dense darkness, began to be agitated by the violence of the wind, and in its agitation to burst through its accustomed limits, occupying towns, fields, and

dating parts which no age in past times is recorded to have seen watered with sea water. For, issuing forth about the middle of the night, it suffocated or drowned men and women sleeping in their beds, with their infants in the cradles, and all kinds of cattle, and the freshwater fishes; and it tore up houses from their foundations, with all they contained, and carried them away and threw them into the sea, with irrecoverable damage. Many, when surrounded by the waters, sought a place of refuge by mounting into trees, but benumbed by the cold, they were overtaken by the water, and fell into it and were drowned. Whereby it happened that in the town of Hyckelingge (Hickling, in Norfolk) nine score of different sexes and ages perished in the aforesaid inundation. In the priory of Canons in the same town, the aforesaid inundation rose to the height of a foot and more over their high altar; all the canons, except two left behind, made their escape in boats, which two saved as many others as they could snatch from the waters in their dormitory, which was vaulted. And not only in the aforesaid town, but in the other towns adjacent to the sea, there was great risk of men's lives, seeing that the aforesaid inundation happened in the deep darkness of night."

Another class of phenomena, to which we are now little accustomed, is often mentioned in the old chronicles as happening in Englandwe refer to earthquakes. A chronology of earthquakes in this country, carefully compiled, would, we think, present interesting results. There can be no doubt, from these historical records, that earthquakes occurred formerly in England much more frequently, and with more intensity, than in modern times; but whether the decrease has been gradual, we are not prepared to say. Earthquakes accompanied with considerable violence happened here as late as the sixteenth century; one which occurred in the reign of Richard the Second was long remembered for its destructive effects. John de Oxenedes has noticed several earthquakes. Under William Rufus, "a very great earthquake happened in England about the hour of tierce." In the year 1246, "there was an earthquake in divers parts of England." Only four years afterwards, in 1250, "On St. Lucy's Day, about the hour of tierce, there occurred a very great earthquake in Chiltern, where, from time of which there is no memory, no such thing has ever been seen to happen. For it is a solid and chalky country, and not cavernous; wherefore such an event, unusual and unnatural, was thought worthy of admiration. Along with the earthquake itself there happened also, as it were, terrible subterranean thunder and bellowing." After having thus displayed his scientification. After having thus displayed his scientific notions about earthquakes, he lets us into his views as to their meaning. "It was said, therefore, to announce either a great pestilence to come, or revolutions in kingdoms, or the death of some most famous prince." Again, in 1275, "On the third of the ides of September there occurred a great earthquake in London, and nearly all over England, about the hour of

and especially in that part of England which is called Mersland (marshland), where nearly the whole country was turned into a pool of water, and an intolerable multitude of men were intercepted by the waters and drowned." Another equally extraordinary inundation happened some months later:—"In the same year, on the 27th of December, the sea, in dense darkness, began to be agitated by the violence of the wind, and in its agitation to burst through its accustomed limits, occupying towns, fields, and other places adjacent to the coast, and inun-

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monarch's misfortunes, and expresses the hope that "certain good works he did in his life," namely, the foundation of the Abbey of Beaulieu, and the legacy John left to the Abbey of Crokeston on his death, would prove serviceable to him before the great tribunal. So far he still only copies Matthew Paris; but he adds of his own, or apparently of his own, that "it is to be remembered for ever to his praise, that, when certain philosophers from Greece came, during his life, to his court with great ostentation, wishing, according to their assertions, to correct in many points the Catholic faith, he sent them away without permitting them even to whisper."

Australian Facts and Prospects: to which is prefixed, the Author's Australian Autobio-By R. H. Horne. (Smith, Elder graphy. & Co.)

THE author of a mystical epic here appears with cavalry sabre, pistols in belt and in holsters, giant mud-boots, an old frock-coat, and a broad-brimmed beaver slouch. He is in charge of a gold escort, and sees nothing of Orion as he makes the mud of Melbourne fly. In the course of a few chatty pages he tells all whom it may concern how it has fared with him since he became an Australian colonist, and passed from the dreaming to the working phase of human nature. But this is not the main object of the volume. Mr. Horne forgetting, to all appearance, that the English public is not a gull qualified to devour anything from the Antipodes, devotes himself to refute a variety of egregious statements published at random by writers who, let us assure him, are likely to do very little mischief. When we have thrust upon us a book of boasts and frippery it may or may not amuse, but when sensible people think of emigrating they put aside the penny-a-liner. So that the huge exaggerations which have excited the alarms of Mr. Horne would have been disbelieved by any who happened to notice them, even if he had not been at the pains to contradict them. Mr. Horne makes a plain and rational statement of the actual prospects offered to settlers in Australia, whether as bankers or journalists, barristers or miners. Passing from money to money's worth, he

"The social circles of Sydney have long since been a settled matter, and more delightful circles than some of them are declared not to be found by all those travellers who have had opportunities of mixing in the best circles in other parts of the world. The same may be said, in a limited degree, of Melbourne, which is at present in a crude and unsettled state of society, and where the circles are also of a more prominently diversified kind. In Melbourne there is an attempt at the nucleus of a 'court circle;' and if the Home Government think proper to make a few more Australian knights and baronets, there may be good hopes for the enlarge-ment of the enchanted hoop: there is, at the same time, a more successful effort to form an aristocratic, or rather a conservative circle, which is in some respects amusing, and yet necessary on account of the curious mixture we have out here. The Melbourne 'Almack's' is to be complimented for the moral courage with which its directors have resisted the claims for admission of some of the wealthy unwashed, and other unsuitables. Money is not quite everything, even in Melbourne. It only covers a multitude of sins, without the help of charity; but it cannot thrust its soiled hands, illiterate dialect, log-hut manners, and foul breath into the society of gentlemen and ladies—to its utter astonishment!"

Some of the sketches are not very flattering the civilization of Australia. Upon one to the civilization of Australia. Upon one point Mr. Horne notes a curious fact. Numbers of well-educated young ladies, he says, pre-fer service as mercers' or drapers' assistants to

colonial families. The great land question, the bugbear of the settlements, is largely and carefully discussed. Then, gold:-

"In 1858, there were in round numbers, 150,000 miners on the gold-fields of Victoria. This number of course includes the Chinese, but does not include any women and children. Several thousands of adults might be deducted from this number, as storekeepers, &c.; but we will throw them into the bargain. In the previous year, the gold exported amounted in value to 9,401,884l. By adding to this sum the gold retained in Melbourne and on the gold-fields, and in private hands, we shall bring the quantity up to 10,000,000l. The return of gold exported in 1858 not being yet made, let us accept the same amount for this year as for the year previous, viz., ten millions sterling. Divide these millions among 150,000 miners, and we find that each will have earned 66l. (sixty-six pounds) for his year's work; i.e. 313 working days. We will now suppose these 150,000 men had worked at agriculture instead of gold mining. We will also take the lowest rate of wages in the colony, viz., 7s. per day. It will then appear that the 150,000 men have earned 16,432,500l. in the year or 109l. 11s. for each man. Hence the agricultural labourer would make 43l. 11s. more than the miner whose gold (per ounce) at this rate would have cost 6l. 5s. to produce, the average market price being only 3l. 15s.—a clear loss to him of 2l. 10s. per

Mr. Horne's little book, apart from the unaffected egotism of the Autobiography, is entertaining, and appears to have been conscientiously written. It is, in part, a protest against reckless mis-statements; but is, generally, a record of his own views and impressions during a long stay, with varied opportunities of observation, in the Australian colonies.

The Speaker at Home. Chapters on Extempore and Memoriter Speaking, Lecturing, and Reading Aloud. By Rev. J. J. Halcombe, M.A. And on the Physiology of Speech. By W. H. Stone, M.A., M.D. (Bell & Daldy.)

THAT the pulpit is fast losing its hold upon the public mind, notwithstanding the recent extraordinary Evening Services, has for some time been admitted on all hands. It is rather an ominous coincidence that this decline of influence is exactly contemporaneous with the wider diffusion of knowledge and the general intellectual advancement of the age. As readers have increased, sermon-hearers have diminished. Mr. Halcombe seems oppressed with a sense of the desolate condition to which the Church of England is reduced. With true sermon-like verbosity, he bewails "her progress checked, her ranks thinned, her churches in many cases emptied, her services brought into disfavour, her ministers disheartened, and her Gospel message not listened to, and, therefore, but half proclaimed." All this catalogue of disasters he seems to attribute simply to the neglect of elocution on the part of the clergy, and their practice of reading sermons, instead of speaking them. It has always appeared to us an unaccountable anomaly, that the study of rhetoric and elocution should be so completely ignored at our older Universities. No doubt those studies which have for their object the storing and disciplining of the mind, are entitled to the precedence; but this does not justify their exclusive pursuit. Thus far we agree with Mr. Halcombe; and we think his work deserves the attention of the younger clergy, to whom it is more particularly addressed. It is well timed well meant, and, in the main, well put; marked throughout by good sense and good taste, though

the toil and ignominy of governess life in vulgar | poraneous speaking are practical and judicious: -witness the following :-

> "The question arises, How is one to practise speaking with no one to speak to? It may be answered by another question, How can a man answered by another question, How can a man learn singing with no one to sing to? Even by singing to himself:—so a man may speak to himself. The best speakers tell us to abstract our minds from the individuals of the mass of people before us. Some even would conceive them to be so many blocks of wood; and surely, therefore, tables and chairs will stand for an audience under these circumstances. The next question is, What to speak about? Take up the first book that comes and, the more simple it is the better; after reading a passage carefully through two or three times, close the book and give your own version of it. It would be well to choose narrative in pre-ference to argument to begin with, because, without calling the thinking powers into action, it gives the mind a clue quite sufficient to prevent it ram-bling. Besides, there is not the same feeling of unreality in narrating a fact that there is in actually addressing an imaginary audience. A more important point than some men may conceive; as there will at first be an almost invincible repugnance, in many minds, to do anything which at the time seems so totally unreal; anything of which, in fact, a man fancies he should be ashamed if anyone intruded suddenly into the room in which he was speaking. I shall now dwell upon some of the difficulties which will meet the speaker at the outset. First and foremost, he will be apt to get into the middle of a sentence and then find himself utterly unable to complete it grammatically. Under these circumstances he will probably be inclined to adopt one of two alternatives, either he will go on and finish it in the best way he can, putting grammar for the time on one side, or he will go back and begin the whole sentence again. The objection to the first plan is, that he will get into a fluent, but loose slovenly way of speaking, which will be much more readily formed than got rid of; and to the second, that he will acquire a habit of hesitation and uncertainty, which would make any man intolerable to listen to. In addressing an audience, a speaker must adopt one or other of these plans of getting out of such a difficulty; but these plans of getting out of such a difficulty; but in practice it will be as well to remember the old adage, that 'prevention is better than cure.' With this view the student may begin by reading so small a portion of the narrative that he will necessarily adopt as nearly as possible the construc-tion of the author; after which, by taking several sentences together, this similarity of order and expression, though still apparent, will become less marked. Thus, simple as the process may appear, the first lesson will have been taken in that accu-racy of thought and expression which is generally supposed attainable only by our most gifted speakers, and not by them until after many years of comparative failure. I need hardly point out the works best suited for this kind of practice; my only suggestion is, that a man should select such authors as he may desire to become acquainted with, so that, even if he should fail in making any progress as a speaker, his time will not have been wasted. Thus a clergyman with some examination pending would probably select works bearing on the history of his subjects. The theological student would take up Robertson or Milman, Blunt's 'History of the Reformation,' or some such work; and I question if he will find any plan give him a more accurate knowledge of a subject than the one here suggested. Having by this means acquired some facility in giving expression to his ideas, the student would begin to take longer portions at a time, to render into his own words. Having carefully studied, say the greater part of a chapter of some work, he would write out a few notes, and speak from them; they should be written out with care, and well studied, so as to form a sort of memoria technica, always present before the mind's eye of the speaker. I have thus far considered only the case of a man who should adopt this system by himself. I need hardly say how great an advantage and stimulus it would be for two or three to pursue some such plan together, or, at least, occasionally

to compare notes and offer the suggestions of their The more fault each found with own experience. the other, the better; no man notices his own peculiarities, however glaring they may appear to others, or, if he does, the chances are he looks upon them as anything but faults, anything, however, which can be remarked upon, one way or the other, is always bad; the mere fact of its having excited attention proves it-and for this reason, that the subject is what a speaker has to impress upon his audience; and it is only at the expense of his subject that he can direct attention to himself. To many the course of study I have proposed, though involving nothing more than half an hour's though involving nothing more than half an hours or an hour's regular daily practice for a few months, will seem to be mere childish drudgery. But what that is worth having was ever attained without drudgery? How many years' labour, for instance, is represented by the single performance of the skilful musician! And yet what scales and exercises are to him, some such labour as is here suggested must be to the speaker. It is true, that, eventually, natural taste or ability may, in either case, render the want of previous training less palpable, yet without it the same degree of excellence will hardly, if ever, be attained."

But supposing that, by the adoption of some such course as this, the clergy generally were to acquire a tolerable proficiency in delivering their sermons without dependence upon the book, can it be imagined that nothing more would remain to be done in order to restore the efficiency of the pulpit as a means of public good? It would argue a strange ignorance of the state of the popular mind to cherish such a delusion. Have not most of the Dissenting and Roman Catholic clergy long been in the practice of extemporaneous preaching? And do they not make the same complaints of waning influence as their brethren of the Church of England? Surely this is proof enough that the causes of failure lie deeper than Mr. Halcombe seems to think.

My Note Book; or, the Sayings and Doings of a London Physician. (Low & Co.)

THE author of this volume asserts that he has been a successful practitioner. He is not likely to have the same good fortune as a writer. What his particular view may be in publishing it were difficult to say. "In sending forth this work to my readers," he remarks, "I ask neither their praise nor their condemnation." He insinuates that silent neglect would satisfy him; and yet he submits his volume to the critics, to those "good men," as Milton reverentially called them, who unite with the Gods in awarding renown to mortals. There is something modest, perhaps, in the author's request to be neither praised nor condemned,-for either one or the other can help to fame, and gratify a writer's desire to be notorious. There is, however, a touch of vanity in the assurance that the author's "object in launching this book on the waves of public opinion is in no degree pecuniary,"—" without vanity or affectation" be niary,"—" without vanity or affectation," he suspiciously alludes to his "successful medical career," and thereby begs, inferentially, not to be classed with vulgar authors, who write for the praise which loads their board with pudding. With a sly bit of satire, the physician refers to the alchemist who tried to tempt a philosopher "of uncommon merits" into a search after gold, by the transmutation of The philosopher bade the tempter get behind him, for, being in perfect health of mind and body, he possessed as much gold as he cared for, and possessed the true philosopher's stone in a contented frame of mind that was not to be disturbed. On such a philosopher, not caring for money, nor being anxious about praise or censure, the occupation of the critic ingly of the conduct of men, which was unexis suspended. Nevertheless, as the retired ceptionable "omnibus horis."

physician is more proud of his 'Note Book' than he affects to be, we will give a sample of his measure, whereby the latter may be very correctly gauged as to contents, and decided upon as to quality. He has just been considering the characters of curates, and the subject reminds him of that of "conductors" and cab-

"We condemn the omnibus conductors and drivers for incivility, and the cabmen for brutal behaviour and extortion. Let us just for a moment pause and think if we are not in some degree to blame in this matter, as well as the men themselves. Does not society set out with the unvarying opinion, that all these men are extortioners and a bad set of fellows ?- and does not this respectable and rightthinking society leave its house in the morning with the full and determined resolution to run down the cabman, whose services may be required during the coming day, feeling quite sure that a cabman wherever he is, is not to be trusted? Again, an omnibus conductor is expected to be more than mortal. He is supposed to know the particular side or part of the street or road where each individual passenger wishes to be put down. The conductor's memory is ever to be splendidly and marvellously retentive. When a passenger observes, on entering his vehicle, 'Maddox Street,' and another, and another passenger says some other locality, all wide apart from, or near to, each other, as the case may be, this unfortunate conductor must make the driver 'pull up' exactly at each mentioned spot, and woe-betide the poor man if his wonderful memory should, on any one occasion, play him false, and he unluckily passes 'Maddox Street,' or any of the other plainly-directed localities! The ladies with parasols, and the gentlemen with umbrellas, are duly and fully licensed and authorized to poke or thrust at any part of a conductor's person which happens to be most conveniently placed for their genteel but infuriated assaults! and let me assure my readers, after personal investigation, that these pokes and thrusts are almost invariably energetic, pretty truly illustrating the remark—'striking arguments!' Now, a conductor's bodily frame, so to speak, consists of precisely the self-same materials as that of his passengers; and it so happens, that supposing this man has about him no wounds or sores of any description, yet is he not only vulnerable in his heel, but in his whole person besides. Then you hear 'Hold hard!' and it is of course, expected the omnibus will stop the very instant the command has gone forth. But, on carefully analysing the has gone forth. But, on carefully analysing the matter, it is found that a pair of horses cannot conveniently be pulled up in a quarter of a second. yementy be punct up in a diameter gouty, dys-still, the indignant passenger—whether gouty, dys-peptic, or not—goes on vociferating 'Hold h-a-r-d! —St-o-p!—I told you to stop!' and no reasoning on the part of the 'wicked' conductor ever miti gates his offence, for the last words to that official, by the much-injured passenger, generally are—
You're highly insolent,—I shall make it my business to report you not only for my own sake, but on behalf of the public at large! I have seen these conductors literally covered with scars, the result, as they have correctly informed me, of sundry pokes from polite parasols, sticks, and umbrellas, unsparingly administered. But, as I said before, omnibus-men, like cabmen, are prejudged and con-demned, and you cannot induce the public to think anything but evil of them. This reminds me of a common observation of mine, fully verified by experience, that all courtesy is done away with in an

Never having had an opportunity to minutely examine the body of a conductor, nor possess ing, indeed, any curiosity in that way, we take our author's picture of his scarred surface as the correct and curious one. As to the lack of civilization in the barbarian passengers, we read of it with chagrin. We thought that the fashion set the other way, that there was a modus in rebus," that is in omnibus rebus, and that Pliny himself had spoken commendOUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Recreations of a Country Parson. (Parker & Sons.)-For parlour-window reading these essays may be commended to persons whose sympathies lie with country life, Gothic architecture, and that sort of gentle, philanthropical, and moral speculation, the pattern of which has, in some measure, been set by the Author of 'Friends in Council.' About books of this class there must be always a considerable amount of egotism, to which their amiable authors do not advert. house,' 'my garden,' 'my dog,' 'my horse,'—seem to be at least as much thought of as how to be at least as much thought of as how to pity the ignorant, or keep the poor clothed and fed, or to afford the labourer recreation. This personal gossip gave a great charm to 'Our Village.' But that capital book was merely meant to be a semi-humorous confession, and a picture of peculiar scenery in England. To a book estensibly devoted to thought, rather than incident or description, such revelations impart a maundering air which savours of affectation and puerility. For instance, what does an essay on puerility. 'Petty Malignity and Petty Trickery' gain by our learning "that no reader would guess the par-ticular surface on which the paper is spread whereon I am at the present moment writing.

I am seated on a manger, in a very light and snug stable, and my paper is spread upon a horse's face, occupying the flat part between the eyes—!" There can be no reason why the 'Country Parson' should not recreate himself, if he pleases, by finishing his thoughts on 'Petty Malignity,' like Ginevra shut up within the corn-bin, or astride on the thatched roof close to the weather-cock, or gently oscillating on a gate swung to and fro by conside rate hands. But the "whereabouts" of composition, be it everso eccentric, only becomes of interest to the public when the writer is one of known fame. That "Dr. Johnson loved a leg of pork." is perhaps a fact of moment, when a " Bozzy and a Piozzi" met to lay together memorabilia concerning a great social ruler; but who would heed a Les Unknown if he began his essay, "My article will be heavy to-day, because I have dined too much on pease-pudding?" We throw out these hints in good humour; since the fashion of small selfdisplay seems on the increase, and if carried further, would tincture a class of amiable and genial books which have a place or function of their own.

A School and College History of England. By J. C. Curtis, B.A. (Simpkin & Marshall.)—We suppose it is in the nature of things that histories of England should be multiplied one season after another, without reference to the question whether the existing versions are likely to be improved upon in condensations "for schools and colleges." Mr. Curtis, who has nothing fresh to disclose, in fact or opinion, claims for his volume certain distinctive features:—a peculiarly systematic arrangement of information, the unusual prominence given to the events of constitutional history, supplements on trade, agriculture, commerce, manners and religion historically treated; merce, manners and religion historically treated; genealogical tables of each dynasty, a careful record of dates, and the employment of two different types distinguishing the political from the social annals of the kingdom. The Great Charter, the Petition of Right, the Habeas Corpus Act, the Bill of Rights and the Act of Settlement, are winted in detail which is a measured state. printed in detail, which is a recommendation of the book to students and teachers.

Glad Tidings. (Newby.)—This little tale is a new attempt to paint the social and religious life of Athens at the period of the Christian advent. The Acts of the Apostles are fragmentarily para-The Acts of the Aposties are fragmentarily para-phrased, and use is made "of all the heathen gods and goddesses so fair," besides the architec-ture of the beautiful city, and its philosophers. St. Paul is wrecked, and the story works on, half reverently, and half with a view to stage effect, to a conclusion that will be likely to please a great many readers. It appears to be from a lady's hand, and is creditable to her reading and

writing powers.

The Society of Friends: an Inquiry into the Causes of its Weakness as a Church. By Joseph John Fox. (Bennett.)—Among the sources of the

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weakness that has stricken the Society of Friends, weakness that has stricken the Society of Friends, as a church, Mr. Fox particularizes its ultra-zealous pursuit of wealth. "It is said that the majority of the banking firms of the metropolis have descended from members of the Society of Friends." Be this as it may, the Society is decreasing, not in moral influence only, but in numbers. There are now in England and Wales about sixteen thousand now in England and water about sixteen enousant of the people vulgarly called Quakers. The new admissions during the present century, have averaged forty-eight a year, yet the total steadily diminishes, the yearly secession reaching, probably, an average of sixty, women falling off more rapidly Why, asks Mr. Fox, is this? Firstly, there is the barrier of a peculiar phraseology; secondly, the Society has long abstained from active proselytism; then, there is the mystic doctrine and singular ministry of this isolated church, with its defective discipline, its rigours with respect to marriage; lastly, eccentricity of costume which, Mr. Fox says, was never contemplated by the founders of the Society. We suspect there are other reasons, above and beyond these, why the Society of Friends, which never, in this country, exceeded a total of about forty thousand members, should be unable to hold the narrow ground

upon which it has encamped itself. Sussex Archeological Collections relating to the History and Antiquities of the County, published by the Sussex Archeological Society. Vol. IX. (J. R. Smith.)-The present volume is one of considerable interest, and this interest is not only of a local but also of a general character. The Notice of Paxhill, with extracts from the manuscripts of the family of the Wilsons, by Mr. Blencowe, abounds in intelligent remarks upon the architecture and domestic habits of our forefathers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, while the family papers are rich in illustrations of the indulgencies and sufferings of those "good old days." It is, no doubt, unpleasant for a fast young man who fell asleep in the streets after a drunken revel to be carried off to slavery in Jamaica-as was the case with Thomas Wils although his master's widow fell in love with him in due course. On the other hand, how exquisite must have been the enjoyment of one Sir William Wilson, when eating flesh meat in Lent, under a formal permission in Latin from the Bishop of Chichester; which permission, though founded upon the weak state of Sir William's health, was liberally extended to his wife and any four guests! The extract from the diary of a Sussex tradesman a hundred years ago, by Mr. Blencowe and Mr. Lower, are very amusing, and have sufficient of historical interest to justify their insertion in this volume. The tradesman's lamentations over the miseries of his marital life until the illness of his wife, the gradual improvement of the wife in the husband's estimation, until she dies a perfect angel, and the grief that is only assuaged by a second marriage, are lively proofs of the identity of human nature in all ages. We fear the same remark may be made as to the frequent expressions of sorrow for return-ing home "far from sober," which are generally found in juxtaposition with self-satisfied entries concerning having read six of Tillotson's sermons

or of Sherlock's discourses in an evening.

Home Sunshine. By Catherine E. Bell. (Hamilton & Adams.)—How inexhaustible is the interest which men of every age take in peril, difficulty, and ruin! We have gone through this tale of a reduced family making the best of things, under the presidence of an excellent father and mother, with as much zeal as if the idea was a totally new one;—in part, of course, because Mrs. (or Miss) Bell has brought her subject clearly before her mind's eye, and not written from the empty wish of filling so many pages. Her desire has been to show how resignation, and mutual considerate-ness, and self-control mitigate the pressure of narrowed fortunes. Her lesson has been told again and again, and still we are content again and again to read it, provided that we are confronted with no impossible perfection, nor affronted by a

seem more ingenious than comical to some grown people. "The snail that came of a distinguished family," may be instanced as one of the best of eries, and children will like it none the worse

the series, and children will like it none the worse for the irony. The illustrations are less to our liking than the letter-press.

The Girl's Own Toymaker, and Book of Recreation,—by G. Landells, and his daughter, Alice Landells. Illustrated with upwards of two hundred the control of the dred Engravings, (Griffith & Farran)-is a treasury of dainty inventions, some of which, however, assume for their execution an exquisite neat-handedness which is hardly to be expected from

Views of Labour and Gold. By William Barnes, B.D. (Smith.)—Mr. Barnes is a reader and a thinker. He has a third and a conspicuous merit—his style is perfectly lucid and simple. If merit—his style is perfectly lucid and simple. If the humblest reader, of ordinary intelligence, de-sired to follow out the process by which societies are built up and held together, he has but to be-take himself to the study of Mr. Barnes's prac-tical epitome. The title, 'Views of Labour and Gold,' cannot be said to indicate the scope of the essays, which open with pictures of primitive life, and pass on through an agreeable and diversified range of topics, to considerations of the rights, duties, and interests of labour and capital, to the inquiry—what constitutes the utility, wealth, and positive well-being of a nation. Subjects of this class are rarely handled with so firm a grasp and such light and artistic manipulations.

Notes on the Floridian Peninsula; its Literary Notes on the Floratian Pennsua; us Lucrary History, Indian Tribes, and Antiquities. By Daniel G. Brinton, A.B. (Low & Co.)—Local history is making progress in the United States of America. Several meritorious works have been published of the class to which Mr. Brinton has contributed this excellent little volume. Mr. Brinton had a rich subject to work upon. His retrospect falls upon the Republican supremacy, the Spanish and English rule, the French colonies, and the early explorations, and he supplements it by a full bibliography. Following, and similarly enriched by citations of authority, he has a very interesting account of the mysterious race of the Apalaches, or aboriginal tribes of an unknown origin, who or aborigma trices of an unknown origin, who hunted in the Florida woods before the Europeans arrived. The myth of this people might inspire another Indian epic. Probably, Mr. Brinton says, the last of the nation has perished. He adds notices of the other tribes with which the strangers from the Old World held intercourse in the sixteenth century, as well as of the tribes who came down into the Floridian Peninsula at a later period —the Yemassees, the Uchees, the Apalachicolos, and the Seminoles. From a recital of the Spanish missions he proceeds to discuss the antiquities of the regions. These consist of mounds, filled with bones and relics of shell-heaps, of well-constructed roads, and of the "Old Fields," sprinkled with traces of a semi-civilized epoch. There is no mere

book-making in Mr. Brinton's work.

When the Snow Falls is the attractive title under which Mr. W. Moy Thomas, a gentleman known to the world by his careful edition of Collins, has collected his scattered tales and sketches from 'Household Words' (Low & Co.). As, with one exception, these clever little stories have appeared in a periodical of large circulation, and in it have engaged the attention of the reading public, our duty is restricted to the act of announcing their re-appearance in a handsome form and an amended text—a fact which is the best evidence of their success—and of so passing them forward to new classes of admirers.—Messrs. Cassell & Co. have published, under the title Pearls of Shakespeare, a pretty and charming volume of extracts from the poet. It is copiously illustrated by Mr. Kenny Meadows—our one Shakspearian designer.—Mr. Jeffs has brought out M. de Montalembert's article from "Le Correspondant," Pie IX. et la France en 1849 et en 1859, for which he is about to undergo a second trial-one of his alleged offences last scene, in which all the lost property tumbles back. This is a good book for the young.

Funny Fables for Little Folks,— by Frances Freeling Broderip, with Illustrations by her brother, Thomas Hood,—(Griffith & Farran) will Doctor, by a Dispensary Surgeon,—and The Ad-

ventures of Mr. Wilderspin on his Journey through Life, by Andrew Halliday. This latter is whim-sically illustrated. We infer that it is a reprint.— From Dr. Lee we have On Nice and its Climate, also, On Spain and its Climate (Adams) .- From Mr. C. Chalmers we have Electro-Chemistry with Positive Results (Churchill),—and Capital, Currency, and Banking, from the Right Hon. J. Wilson (Aird).—More important and interesting is the (Aird).—More important and interesting is the appearance of Dissertations and Discussions, Political, Philosophical, and Historical, by J. S. Mill (Parker & Son).—Kingston's Annual for Boys (Bosworth & Harrison) appears in a bound volume.—Among new editions of a miscellaneous character—the edition not specified—we have on our table The Kellys and the O'Kellys, by Anthony Trollope (Chapman & Hall).—The Headsman, by J. Fennimore Cooper (New York, Townsend & Co.),—Vol. XII. of The Parent's Cabinet (Smith, Elder & Co.),—The Biglow Papers, by J. R. Lowell, with additional Notes and enlarged Glossary (Hotten). Is this the edition of the 'Biglow Papers' to which Mr. Lowell refers elsewhere as "unauthorized")— Is the edition of the Biglow Papers to which Mr. Lowell refers elsewhere as "unauthorized":

Mr. Hodgson has added to his "New Series of Novels" Evelyn Marston, by the Author of 'Emilia Wyndham.'—In second editions we have now on our table, Practical Nature of Swedenborg's Writings, by the Rev. A. Clissold (Longmans).— The Stationer's Handbook, and Guide to the Paper Trade (Groombridge)—Tragic Dramas from Scot-tish History, Heaelrig, Wallace, James the First of Scotland (Constable),—Bursill's Second Series of Hand-Shadows to be thrown upon the Wall (Griffith & Farran),-and Dr. Bennett on Pulmonary Consumption (Black).—In a third edition we have German Reading Room, by Dr. Fischel (Nutt),— and in a fifth edition we have Dr. Fresenius's Qualitative Chemical Analysis, edited by J. Lloyd Bullock (Churchill).—To these miscellanies we may Bullock (Churchill).—To these miscellanies we may add a little trade book, Examples of Modern Alphabets (Spon),—A Report on the Elegibility of Milford Haven for Ocean Steamships and for a Naval Arsenal, by Thomas Page,—No. IX. of the "Historical Tales," containing The Quay of the Dioscuri; a History of Nicene Times, by Macarius (J. H. & J. Parker),—and Seth Bede, "the Methody," his Life and Labours, chiefly written by Himself (Tallers).

The Almanacks and Year-Books begin to crowd our table. First on the list comes Punch's Pocket-Book (Bradbury & Evans), with drolleries and illustrations, — next Mr. Gutch's Literary and Scientific Register and Almanack (Kent), a book crammed full of literary and scientific information. -Mr. De La Rue's Improved Indelible Diary and —Mr. De La Rue's Improved Indelible Diary and Memorandum Books, for ladies in velvet, for genlemen in leather, carry the prize for beauty. The same publishers issue Improved Red Letter Calendars, on a sheet and in a book for the pocket,—The Lady's Illustrated Almanack,—Dietrichsen and Hannay's Royal Almanack,—The Farmer's Almanac (Ridgway), are year-books well known, and sufficiently described in their titles.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

LIST OF NEW BOÖKS.

Aberdeen's Principles of Beauty in Greeian Architecture, 12. swd. Alford's (Henry) Poetical Works, 3rd edit. cr. 8vo. 8s. 6d. cl. Alford's (Henry) Poetical Works, 3rd edit. cr. 8vo. 8s. 6d. cl. Apassi's Actes, a First Lesson in Natural History, 7s. edit. 3s. 6d. 8ain's (C. M.) Poems, fc. 8vo. 8s. cl. Historia, 6d. 8ain's (C. M.) Poems, fc. 8vo. 8s. cl. Historia, 6d. 8ain's (C. M.) Poems, fc. 8vo. 8s. cl. Historia, 6d. 6d. 6d. 8ain's (C. M.) Poems, fc. 8vo. 8s. cl. 8d. cl. 8ain's (C. M.) Poems, fc. 8vo. 8s. cl. 8d. cl. 8ain's (C. M.) Poems, fc. 8vo. 8s. cl. 8d. cl. 8d

Kaith's Coming Events cast their Shadows Before, 2 vols. 31s. cl.
Lays of the Sanctuary, and other Poems, ed. by Rutherford, 7s. 6d.
Lays of the Sanctuary, and other Poems, ed. by Rutherford, 7s. 6d.
Lennard's Tales from Molière's Plays, post 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.
Lever's Works, 'The Dodd Family Abroad, 'Vol. 2, rc. 8vo. 4s. cl.
Lytton's The Cartons, library edit. (in 8 vols. 1 Vol. 2, fc. 8vo. 5s.
Macduff Hart and the Waste Brooks, ed. 2nd Pealm, 2s. 6d. cl.
Newton's Rills from the Fountain, 18mo. 1s. cl.
Poets of England and America, new edit. 18mo. 5s. cl. gilt.
Political Poems and Songs, ed. by Wright, Vol. 1, royal 8vo. 8s. 6d.
Pulsford's Quiet Hours, New Series, cr. 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.
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Redd's Way of the World, a Novel, 3 vols post 8vo. 31s. 6d. cl.
Redd's Way of the World, a Novel, 3 vols post 8vo. 31s. 6d. cl.
See Anemones, or Tanks and their Inhabitants, and edit. 1s. 6d.
Shakospeare, The Philosophy of, 2nd edit. fc. 8vo. 6s. cl.
Sheppard's A Fallen Faith, cr. 8vo. 5s cl.
Smitch's Relf-Help, with Illustrations of Character & Conduct, 6s.
Smitch's Relf-Help, with Illustrations of Character & Conduct, 6s.
Smitch's Relf-Help, with Illustrations of Character & Conduct, 6s.
That's It, or Plain Teaching, cr. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl. gilt.
Winslow's Precious Things of God, new edit. fc. 8vo. 8s. cl.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]—Shortly will be published, price 2s. 6d., THE LITERARY AND EDUCATIONAL YEAR-BOOK, for 1860. It will contain Catalogues of British, American, and Foreign Books published in 1859—List of Works published by the Commissioners of Patents for Inventions—Lists of Parliamentary Papers and Blue-Books published in 1859—Lists of the New Engravings, Maps, and Diagrams published in 1859—Lists of the Condon and Provincial Newspapers—Lists of the Professional and Gratuitous Lecturers of the Country—an Account of the Scientific and Artistic Societies of the Metropolis—Lists of the Scientific and Artistic Societies of the Metropolis—Lists of the Scientific and Artistic Societies of the Metropolis—Lists of the Scientificand Artistic Societies, Young Men's Christian Associations, County Associations, Book-Lending Libraries, Italians and Training Institutions of the Country—an Oblituary for 1859, and a great variety of other information.—London: Keny & Co. Paternoster Row and Fleet Street.

HIGH LIFE IN NOVELS.

I am an old gentleman of the old school; in my time I was thought to have a pretty leg, and I still cultivate a branch of knowledge for which some of our younger fellows entertain a most heretical con-tempt. In my day, a gentleman might, or might not, understand your "ologies;" that was as heaven pleased: but every gentleman was taught the science of courtesy and honour. We learnt somewhat of Selden, even if we neglected Shakspeare. We never made such blunders as I find now made every day in books which profess to deal with life. My pretty leg is now laid up in port; and my table is heaped, for my amusement, with fictions which pretend to describe the society in which I no longer dance and flirt with the girls. Heugh! Such descriptions! Why, the writers of these books have the very alphabet of society yet to learn.

To drop down upon some few of their very loose particulars:-In a novel called 'Maule verer's Divorce,' Lady Mauleverer is a Peeress in her own right, and her husband, who has amassed a large fortune as a manufacturer, but is of the lowest origin, is very ambitious to get the title conferred upon himself. Though he has contrived to get into Parliament, and has become a complete tool of the Government, he cannot carry his point, because the Crown "will not grant two peerages in the same family." Why nothing is more common than to see two or more peerages in the same family. In the Wellesley family there were at one time four brothers all Peers! In the Grosvenor family there are at this moment three! And in the case of Lord Campbell and Lady Stratheden two distinct peerages were created for the husband and wife. What was percreated for the husband and wife. What was per-haps intended to be said was, that the Crown would not grant the same title to two individuals of one family, as of course it would not. Yet, a few pages further on, I read that it consented to raise the title of Baroness Mauleverer into an Earldom, "in the joint favour of herself and her husband." I venture to say that such a thing never was heard of. It would have involved this absurd anomaly among others, that her original title being in her own right, if she happened to die before her hus-band, her son would immediately succeed to that title, -so that the father and son would both be Lord Mauleverer at the same time.

I was surprised to find Miss Pardoe falling into a somewhat similar mistake. In her last novel of 'The Poor Relation,' the daughter of an impoverished Irish Earl is married to an English Baronet, and having seriously crippled her

husband's property by her reckless extravagance and ostentation, she is very anxious to place her only son in a position to marry some wealthy heiress. Accordingly, when she becomes Counter of Disborough on the death of her father (we are to assume of course that his title descended in the female line for want of male heirs), she determined at once to resign her title to her son, Horace Ashton. But this was not quite an easy matter. She found it necessary to petition for the special consent of the Crown, and I do not believe there ever was an instance of such a concession. A sovereign may abdicate his or her crown in favour of the next heir; but no Peer can alienate his title in his lifetime. He may decline to take it up, as the present Earl Berkeley does; but Lord Berkeley could not transfer his Earldom to a son. Moreover, in the present case the sacrifice was wholly unnecessary, because as soon as Lady Harriet Ashton became Countess of Disborough, her son would at once have taken the second title of Lord Compton, -and as he was her heir apparent this would have placed him in quite as good a situation to contract an advantageous marriage as if he had already succeeded to the earldom !

Again, in 'Every Day,' a novel by Mrs. Forster Langston, a certain young lady called Sybil is determined upon placing a coronet on her head, and with this view she marries a Lord John Bwho is heir apparent to a peerage, by which she attains her wishes. Now, no Lord John B— could be heir apparent to a Peerage! To be Lord John Bhe must be either the son of a Duke or a Marquis, and, if the eldest son, he would hold the second title of the dukedom or marquisate in his father's lifetime. Lord John B-, therefore, could only be a younger son, and as such could not be an heir

apparent!
The most common blunder, perhaps, in these novels of high life is the notion, that because the daughters of Earls are Lady Mary, Lady Jane, and so on, the sons must be Lords. Why, the veriest tyro in heraldic studies knows that no son of a Peer below the rank of Marquis has the title of Lord prefixed to his Christian name. Yet, in defiance of this well-known law, the writer of the novel 'A Friend in Need' makes the son of the Earl of Glenarm, "Lord Gerald Lisdillon," and his younger brother "Lord Hugo Lisdillon." These titles are simply impossible. The eldest son might titles are simply impossible. The eldest son might have been Lord Lisdillon, supposing that to be his father's second title; but Lord Gerald Lisdillon he never could have been! any more than his brother could have been Lord Hugo Lisdillon. In the novel of 'Henry Clarendon,' the son and

heir of the Earl of Elfringham is called Lord Edward Fitzgerald, which he could not possibly be. As the eldest son he would of course be entitled to use one of his father's second titles; but that would be a distinct and substantive title, created by Royal Patent, like those of Lord Maidstone, Lord Stanley, Lord Villiers, Lord West, and many others, but totally different from the mere honorary title attached to the Christian name. Again, in 'Sir Arthur Bouverie,' the son of the Earl of Havilant is called Lord Edwin Havilant. Being the eldest son, he would of course have enjoyed his father's second title, if he had one, but he could not possibly be Lord Edwin Havilant! One more instance will be sufficient for the present. It occurs in one of Mr. Bourcicault's comedies, 'Old Heads and Young Hearts,' where the son of a certain Earl of Pompion is called ''Lord Charles Roebuck," which, for the reasons already given, he could not be. writers have studied heraldry and

Mr. Bourcicault, I read in the newspapers, has been giving some lectures in America. Amongst other complaints of the unfair treatment experienced by literary men in England, he commented very strongly on the great contrast between the honous conferred upon authors and upon artists, many of the latter having been made Baronets, while only two authors had received that title, viz., Sir Walter Scott and Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, the last of whom, it was added, owed this distinction more to other circumstances than his literary merits. But why was Sir Archibald Alison omitted, whose claims were purely of a literary character? I

could wish that he had been a little more careful in his facts. He ought at least to have stated the names of the favoured painters who have been raised to the dignity of the Baronetage. For my part, I cannot call to mind a single instance since that of Sir Godfrey Kneller in the reign of George the First! I may be wrong; but if such a thing has occurred, the title must have become extinct for want of heirs, as I cannot find any such Baronetage in existence at present. If, on the con-trary, I am right as to the facts, the favouritism if there has been any, is wholly on the side of

I hope Mr. Bourcicault is aware that, since the delivery of his lectures, one of our popular authors has been raised to the dignity of the Peerage. CECIL.

THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY AT ST. PETERSBURG

WE have received from Dr. B. Dorn, of the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg, the following particulars respecting the recent acquisitions of the Public Imperial Library. They will interest scholars and bibliographers in the first place; but they will have an interest for the politician and general reader as showing, on the best kind of evidence, how much the energies of the mighty Russian Empire are being devoted, under the pre sent sovereign, to works of peace and intellectual progress :-

"St. Petersburg, Oct. 28, 1859. "The Imperial Library of St. Petersburg, since the publication of the Catalogue of its Oriental MSS. in the year 1852, has been enriched by several important additions, which may be classed under the following languages:—Hebrew, Syriac, Ethiopic, Arabic, Persian, Tatar, Turkish, Æthiopic, Arabic, Persian, Tatar, Turkish, Armenian, Georgian, Sanscrit, Siamese, Birmese, Tamil, Chinese, Javanese, and Bhatta.

The latest of these acquisitions yields to none in importance; and the year 1859 will, in this respect, fairly rank with the years 1828 and 1829, which added to our stores of Oriental literature the collections of Ardebíl, Akhalzikh, Erzeroum, and the MSS. presented through Khosrow Mirza.

Prince Dolgorouki, late Ambassador to the Court of Teheran, availed himself of his residence in Persia to form a collection of Eastern MSS., remarkable alike for its scientific value and its caligraphic execution. Most of them belong to the Persian language, a few to Arabic and Chaghata, and one to the old Parsí; the last being unique in Russia, and containing, besides some extracts from the Zend - Avesta, two glossaries of the Pehlevi

Although the former possessor exercised the greatest liberality in allowing to Oriental scholars the use of his MSS., a great desire had been excited of seeing so important a collection placed is the national repository on the banks of the Neva. This wish has just been gratified by His Majesty, the Emperor, having ordered the collection to be bought for the sum of 10,000 silver roubles, (about 1,600l.) and deposited in the Imperial Library.

Turning now to the scientific value of the new acquisitions we find that it comprises, in the first place, the most important historical works of Persian literature. Suffice it to name the follow-Persian literature. Suffice it to name the follow-ing authors:—Mirkhond, Khondemir, Hafiz Abru, Hamdullah Mustaufi Kazwini, Rashid uddin, Juwaini, Lari, Wassaf, Ali Yazdi, Abdurrazzik Samarkandi, Iskander Munshi, Mehdi Khan Mohammed Sadik, &c.; to which may be added, two Arabic authors, Tabari, (in the Persian vertwo Arabic authors, Tabari, (in the Persian version), and Ibn Khallikán. Besides their importance for general history, these works offer also rich and rare materials for special histories, as those of the Ghaznevides, the Moghuls, the Timurides, the Sefides, Kerim Khán, Feth Ali Shah, of Kerman, Herat, &c., which are further illustrated by geographical works such as those of Hamdullah Mustaufi Kazwini, and Zain ul-Abidin Shirwani.

The comparative scantiness with which some branches are represented, for instance, Philology, by a single work, the Arabic dictionary Kamus, and Astronomy by the Arabic treatise of Abul-Hosein Sufi, is compensated by a vast array of Persian poets, most of them in choice copies. We assert, made The a spection will, p No Comm has gi than 1 Messo ral po the h union Dar

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may name Firdausi, Enveri, Nizámi, Ferid-uddin may name Firdaus, Envert, Nizami, Ferid-uddin Attar, Jelal-uddin Rumi, Saadi, Hafiz, Emir Hasan Dihlevi, Katibi, Jami, &c., as, also, the 'Lives of Poets,' by Dauletshah and Lutf Ali Bey, until now anting in our collections. Two copies of the poetical works of the celebrated Chaghatai poet, Mir Ali Shir, although not so rare, have also their value. How far a Persian version of the New Testament agrees with those previously known is

not yet ascertained.

If, besides the intrinsic value of the collection, we take into account the beauty of the penmanship and the elegance of the bindings, we may safely assert, that it constitutes one of the finest additions made to our public library for many years past.
The above opinion is the result of a cursory inspection. A more careful examination of the MSS. will, probably, lead to a still higher estimate of DORN."

THE VELTRO OF DANTE.

Newington Butts, Surrey.

No subject in the whole course of the 'Divina Commedia,' from the days of Dante to our own, Commedia, from the days of Dante to our own, has given rise to a greater diversity of opinions than the meaning of the mysterious Veltrao, the Messo di Dio, the prophetic destroyer of the temporal power of the Popes, the liberator of Italy from the hands of the foreigner, and the restorer of mion and good government to the Italians.

Dante describes him as a person, (Inf. i. 103)—

Questi non ciberà terra nè peltro, Ma sapienza, ed amore, e virtute, E sua nazion sarà tra Feltro e Feltro:

and in another place, (Purg. xxxiii. 43,) he is spoken of as "un cinquecento dieci e cinque," that is, as DVX, a leader or captain.

is, as DVX, a leader or captain.

For the last three centuries it has been customary with commentators to identify the Veltro with Can Grande della Scala, Signor of Verona from 1312 to 1329. Vellutello, in his edition of the 'Divina Commedia,' dedicated to Pope Paul the Third, and published in 1544, was, I believe, the first to propose this solution, and in his sketch of the character of Can Grande sought to show its agreement with the character of the Italian Liberator, as drawn by Dante, and with what Cacciaguida reveals to him in the heaven of Mars in reference to his future m are neaven or Mars in reference to his future prospects (Pard. xvii. 76-93). This latter passage certainly does refer to Can Grande; but though he was a very spirited ruler, a great captain, at one time very successful, a liberal benefactor to the poet, who in 1316 became a guest at his court, and after the defeat of the Paduans with great slaugh-ter at Vicenza in 1318 was elected Captain-General of the Ghibelins, yet his character does not quite harmonize with that of the Veltro, for he certainly did covet territory although he might have despised wealth, and when a child had given a remarkable proof of it: neither can the locality of his birth or the seat of his family. Verona, without a large poetic licence, be brought within the bounds "trapeace neence, be brought within the bounds "teleftro e Feltro," understanding by these places, Monte Feltro di San Leo, a castello in Romagna, not far from Urbino, and Feltre a small town with a bishop's see, about twenty-five miles above Trevigi, in the direction of Trento. But whatever the hopes of Dante may at any time have been treable of Constant of the control of the contr touching Can Grande, they were doomed to disap-pointment; in 1329 this energetic prince was cut off suddenly in the midst of his victories, without effecting anything important either towards the better government of Italy or for the good of the Church

Dante was the guest of Can Grande at the same Dante was the guest of Can Grande at the same time with Uguccione della Faggiuola, who had also been Captain-General of the Ghibelins, and like-wise Lord of Lucca and Pisa; he was the most suc-cessful general of his age, and the friend of Dante; and it was the opinion of the late estimable Carlo Troya, that he had been intended for the Veltro. The chief merit of Uguccione lay in his generalship; he was a brave and skilful commander, and nothing more; but the locality of his birthat Torre Faggiuola between the summit of Feltro di San Leo, on the north, and Marcerata Feltria (so Troya) on the south, is conformable to the letter of the prophecy. Uguccione was a large and powerful man, and had an enormous appetite; his exploits in eating equal-

led, in their way, those with the sword. An anecdote is related of what took place one day at the table of Can Grande, where Dante most probably was present, which would almost induce one to think that the poet may indeed have had an eye to this great eater when he wrote

Questi non ciberà terra nè peltro,

though not in the way of personal application. The conversation turned on gastronomy, when Uguccione related incredible feats, which, in his Uguccione related incredible feats, which, in his youth, he had performed in eating and drinking. But one of the company, Pietro Navo, reputed for his pungent satire, remarked, that he was not at all astonished at what Uguccione had told them, for in fact he had done much more than he had said, as all present very well knew, for at one meal he had contrived to consume two large cities, Pisa and Lucca. It is recorded that when the first intima-tion of the revolts of Pisa and Lucca reached Uguccione, he was at dinner, and chose rather to cono guccione, he was at dinner, and chose rather to continue his meal than to rise at once and quell them; the delay was fatal, and thus he lost them both. He died in 1319 of fever, caught at the siege of Padua, where he commanded the army of Can Grande.

The weapons of the Veltro, however, are not those of mortal combats, but

Sapienza, ed amore, e virtute ;

and with these Uguccione did not fight, neither did his patron and protector Can Grande. The only individual whom Dante hailed as the deliverer of Italy was the "Alto Arrigo," the Emperor Henry the Seventh, elected King of the Romans in 1308, and who entered Italy in 1310. To him Dino Compagni and others also looked up; but this expedition failed of its hoped-for fruits, it was badly conducted; and the death of the Emperor in 1913 put an end to whatever might have been expected from it. The personal character of Arrigo appears to have agreed well with that of the symbolical Veltro, and the principles with which the Emperor set out were benevolent, and not ambitious.

were benevoient, and not ambitious.

The Padre Ponta thought that Pope Benedetto
the Eleventh might at one time have been intended
by Dante as the Veltro, and in him, says Dino
Compagni, the world rejoiced as with new light;
but, unfortunately for the world, this light went out Compagni, the world rejoiced as with new light; but, unfortunately for the world, this light went out in a year, and not without a strong suspicion of having been violently extinguished. There are reasons for holding that one of the great changes contemplated by Dante, the separation of the temporal from the spiritual power of the Popes, can only be effected by a reigning Pontiff; and in 1847 Pio Nono was himself saluted as the Veltro so long expected. The locality of his birth and family, Sinigaglia, was not far removed from the letter of the prediction—"tra Feltro e Feltro," and his character corresponded; "Sapienza, ed amore, e virtute" were indeed the leading traits of his disposition, along with a generosity opposed alike to worldly gain of lands or money. His clerical position entitled him to be regarded as "il Messo di Dio;" and though not a man of war, he was nevertheless a captain and leader, for he was the head of the Church, the chief of the State, and had been the prime mover in the then contemplated regeneration of Italy and the Italians. He was therefore tion of Italy and the Italians. He was therefore "un cinquecento dieci e cinque" in more senses than one. A notice to this effect was printed by me in one of the Florentine journals in the summer of 1847, and subsequently reprinted at Perugia in the autumn; the same notion had occurred to Gioberti, as I learned afterwards from a letter of his to a friend in Ravenna. The illustrious trio to whom the vivas of the Italians were then addressed were the vivas of the Italians were then addressed were Pio Nono, Carlo Alberto, and Gioberti. The first of these may, even at the eleventh hour, redeem if he chooses the character once assigned to him, and revive his lost claim to the Veltroship of Dante. Had the Poet been living in these days, he would probably have hailed the advent of the French Emperor with as much enthusiasm as he did the advent of the German one, and with a better prospect of a felicitous result; for now the Italians are disposed to unity among themselves, which then

Before the publication of Vellutello in 1544, the earlier commentators on the 'Divina Commedia' were inclined to believe that by the coming of the

Veltro, a peculiar influence of the stars was intended: this was Boccaccio's opinion; but some, with an eye to the supposed Millennium, thought that Jesus Christ coming in the clouds of heaven to judge the world at the last day was what Dante meant. Benvenuto da Imola was of this mind, and so was Jacopo dalla Lana.

so was Jacopo dalla Lana.

In general, however, the astral influence prevailed; and "tra Feltro e Feltro" was understood to signify "tra cielo e cielo."

Francesco Buti explained the Veltro to be an influence of the celestial bodies, through whose movement and operation the entire world would become disposed to wisdom, virtue and love; that avarice and every other vice would then cease; and this, he adds, was known to the author by reason avance and every tener vice wount near cease; and this, he adds, was known to the author by reason of astrology. Landino followed in the same track, but expressed some uncertainty whether the influ-ence of the celestial bodies should be considered as ence of the celestial bodies should be considered as general or special,—as operating on all mankind, and thus renewing the golden age, or only on one chosen individual whom Heaven had predestined to effect this happy revolution. He inclined rather to the latter opinion, and refers to the passage in Purgatory (canto xxxiii. 40-45) in which Dante seems to confirm the stellar theory, and notifies the number of the deliverer as the number of a man.—

Ch' io veggio certamente, e però 'l narro, A darne tempo già stelle propinque, Sicure d'ogn' intoppo e d'ogni sbarro, Nel quale un cinquecento dieci e cinque Messo di Dio anciderà la fuia E quel gigante che con lei delinque.

Landino adds-"And truly in the year 1484, on the 25th of November, at 41 minuits after one o'clock, p.m., (hore xiii. et minuit xli.) there will be a conjunction of Saturn and Jove in the Scorpion, to be a conjunction of Saturn and Jove in the isocendant of the fifth degree of Libra, which demonstrates a mutation of religion, and because Jove will prevail over Saturn, this change will be for the better. But, inasmuch as there can be no religion whatever truer than our own, I have firm hope that the Christian republic will reform itself to the most perfect pattern of life and government." Landino's Commentary was printed in

1481. Now the letters in the Veltro (UELTRO) form the anagram of Luther, in Italian, LUTERO, who, according to the usually-received account, was born at 11 o'clock, p.m., on November 10th, 1483, so that Christoforo Landino was only rather more than a year out in his singular announcement. This prediction is deserving of notice in respect to that of Dante, as showing, previously to the discovery of the political sense of the 'Divina Commedia, what the general opinion was regarding the regeneration of Italy and the reform of the Church. In reference to the 'Messo di Dio,' Landino remarks that, his number forms DVX, duke, and signifies "the leader of an army sent by God, who will slay the fuia, and put an end to the adultery of the whore, cioè del Papa, e della corte Romana adulterata, et coinquinata in ogni vitio." Hard words these for a faithful son of holy Mother Church to write and print, but no doubt it was the love of that Mother which prompted them, and put it in his heart thus freely to express himself. In this he followed Dante, who venerated the Vicar of Jesus Christ, quoad Vicar, but abhorred his political rule. By the giant, says Landino, is meant that temporal prince the partner in the papal sin. The particulars of this history are too well known to need repetition here. The giant, it will be remembered, was of France. Prophecies are, for the most part, very ambiguous things; it is only when time has unriddled their meaning that we come to perceive that they had any; and sometimes their solution takes place in a way so different to what had been anticipated, that people have a difficulty in recognizing them, and still think that to be future which is already past. Nor may we omit to notice the element of human impatience, which often regards as close at hand what is indefinitely distant. Dante knew that the time would come, that it must come, when Italy would be united in itself; that the operation of natural causes, however seemingly slow, are sure, as well in political and moral as in physical phenomens, and hence he than a year out in his singular announcement. This prediction is deserving of notice in respect to that ever seemingly slow, are sure, as well in political and moral as in physical phenomena, and hence he was hopeful to the last. The Veltro was always

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spoken of by him as future, nor was his prediction uttered in haste, it is repeated throughout his Poem in various places: and when expositors, as they preceed, have exhausted their conceptions as to whom, or to what, Dante might allude, or who this Veltro could possibly be, whether a person or a process of time, and are almost ready to believe that he has deceived himself no less than them, the Poet reiterates with increased fervour by the mouth of St. Peter (Pard. xxvii. 61-63);—

Ma l'alta providenza, che con Scipio Difese a Roma la gloria del mondo Soccorrà tosto, si com' io concipio.

Arrigo, Uguccione and Can Grande were then dead, yet Dante's hopes did not fail him; the event which he desired, he foresaw, and though it might not be for a thousand years, yet come it would (Pard. xxvii. 142-143) :-

prima che gennaio tutto si sverni Per la centesma, ch' è laggiù neglet

-Since Dante wrote, the unification of Italy has proceeded gradually: Tuscany is no longer divided against itself; the Romagnuoli do not now make war on one another; Italy is growing into one and though the day, humanly speaking, may yet be distant, when it will be one, yet without pre-tending to read the aspects of the stars, virtually and politically, we know that eventually it must become one, as much so as Germany is one, though not under one reigning sovereign, albeit under one reigning Poet-DANTE ALLIGHIERI.

H. C. BARLOW, M.D.

MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE,

By the death of Mountstuart Elphinstone the link is broken which connected the brightest period of the East India Company's rule with the person of the East Intal Company's rule with the present time. Mr. Elphinstone was associated with Arthur Wellesley in his glorious campaigns of 1803-4; beheld our Indian Empire, raised on that foundation, reach a stupendous height, and lived to see the downfall of the Company, and to hear the abandonment of India discussed as probable and of slight importance to the welfare of England. Of the three great men who, next to Wellesley, were the chief instruments in cementing the fabric of British power in India after the overthrow of the Marathas, Mr. Elphinstone was the man of greatest intellect, and achieved the greatest success. He was superior to Malcolm in judgment, and excelled Munro in all the qualities that add popularity to success. It is to be hoped that a complete biography, by a capable writer, will be given of this remarkable man. Here the briefest outline of his career is all that can be presented.

The Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone was third son of the sixth Viscount Elphinstone. He was born in 1778, entered the Bengal Civil Service in his eighteenth year; and, after passing through several inferior appointments, became Assistant to Colonel Sir Barry Close, Resident at the Pesháwar When the great war with the Marathae broke out, Mr. Elphinstone was appointed Persian Interpreter to Colonel Wellesley. He was present at most of the important actions fought during the war, and on one occasion so much distinguished himself at the storming of a fortress, that even the imperturbable Wellesley was moved to exclaim with en-thusiasm, "Sir, you have mistaken your profession; you ought to have been a soldier." When Rághoji Bhonsle, after the decisive battle of Arganm, suc-cumbed, Mr. Elphinstone was sent to manage political relations with that chief, and became Resident at Nagpur. In this appointment he gave complete satisfaction to the Governor-General, Arthur Wellesley thus writes of him,-"Elphinstone gets on capitally; his despatches are really excellent, and Ram Chandra tells me that the Rájá and his minister, are much pleased with him." From this post Mr. Elphinstone moved to one far more important, being nominated our first Envoy to Kabul. He left Delhi on the 13th of October, 1808, and reached Pesháwar on the 5th of March, 1809. It was there he concluded an alliance with Shah Shuja, which was to array the Afghan arms with those of England in case of a French invasion of India: the treaty was signed at

Shuja was hurled from his throne by his brother Mahmud. The only fruit that remained from the negotiations was Mr. Elphinstone's narrative of his embassy,—a book which contains more information about Afghanistan than any that has appeared in the subsequent half-century. On his return to India, Mr. Elphinstone was appointed Resident at Punah, then the most important political post in Hindustan. Here his great qualities found a fit-ting sphere, and during the whole difficult period that followed until the downfall of the Peshwa and the annexation of his territories in 1818, Mr. Elphinstone displayed a prudence, sagacity, and courage that has never been surpassed. chiefly owing to his judgment and coolness that the great victory of Khirki was won, and had the important results which followed it. The settlement of the conquered territories was entirely the work of Mr. Elphinstone. A few years after, Mr. Elphinstone was appointed Governor of Bombay, and his rule has been favourably contrasted by the historian of India with that of Munro at Madras. At a later period he might have filled, had it been his wish, the still higher post of Governor-General; but his health had suffered much from incessant exertion, and he was content to devote the rest of his life to literary studies. As the result of these, he has bequeathed, to his country, a History of India, unfinished, indeed, but for the period it treats of altogether unequalled.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

Mr. Douglas Hamilton has found in the State Paper Office some hitherto unnoticed facts in the life of Milton. Among these discoveries are, several letters of State not previously printed in Milton's prose works, but of high interest, as illustrating the energetic intervention of the Commonwealth Government in behalf of the persecuted Protestants of the Alpine Valleys. A treatise in justification of the war with Holland, already in type, but not known as Milton's composition, Mr. Hamilton has succeeded in identifying by means of the Order Books of the Council of State. These Order Books, it now appears, were arranged in the State Paper Office, their present abode, by the great poet him self. These are interesting facts of his public life. Of a more personal nature, is a discovery, in the Royalist Composition Papers, which clears the character of Milton from the old charge of harshness towards his mother-in-law in withholding from the unfortunate Ann Powell her thirds. Enemies of Milton have made much of these thirds. The State Papers prove incontestably that the Commissioners for Sequestration, not Milton, were to blame. The poet's part in the matter was consistent and even noble. The whole of these Milton papers will be published by the Camden

Mr. Murray's trade sale came off on Tuesday, with a success which speaks well for the prosperity of the new literary season. Capt. M Clintock was the hero of the day. Of his 'Narrative of the Voyage of the Fox in the Arctic Seas, and of the Discovery of the Fate of Sir John Franklin and his Companions,' there were sold 7,600 copies. Of this number Mr. Mudie alone took 3,000 copies. The following numbers for new books and new editions are also of interest:—'The Bampton Lectures, 1859'sold 900,—Dr. Thomson's 'Story of New Zealand,' 900,—Rev. Adam S. Farrar's 'Science in 500,-Rev. Josiah Bateman's 'Life of the Right Rev. Daniel Wilson,' 2,200,-Mr. the Kight Rev. Daniel Wilson, 2,200,—Mr. Smiles's 'Self-Help,' 3,200,—Mr. Charles Darwin's work 'On the Origin of Species,' 1,500,—Dr. Wm. Smith's 'Principia Latina: a First Latin Course,' 900,—'Eöthen,' 600,—Sir Fowell Buxton's Life and Correspondence,' 2,500,—'The Chinese: Pictures of Themselves, drawn by Native Artists, described by Rev. R. H. Cobbold,' 1,000,—'Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury: a Biography,' by Rey Japas C. Epolerison, 500 Rev. James C. Robertson, General Sir Howard Douglas's Modern Systems of Fortification, examined with Reference to the Naval, Littoral, and Internal Defence of England, 500,—Prof. Mansel's 'Limits of Reli-French invasion of India: the treaty was signed at gious Thought Examined, fourth and cheaper edi-Calcutta, but before it could be returned Shah tion, 900,—Lord Byron's 'Childe Harold's Pil-

grimage, 3,000, Lord Byron's Complete Works, with notes and illustrations by Jeffrey, Heber Wilson, Moore, Gifford, Lockhart, &c., a new and theaper edition, 1/000,—Dr. Wm. Smith's 'Dictionary of the Bible,' 1,300,—Murray's Cookery, 1,500,—Fergusson's 'Architecture,' 300,—Staphenson's Life, 1,600,—and Stanley's 'Sinai,' 600. phenson's Life, 1,000,—and Seamed by Mr. Murray, The sale of School-books, published by Mr. Murray, also large. We note:—Dr. Wm. Smith The sale of School-books, published by Mr. Murray, was also large. We note:—Dr. Wm. Smith's 'Latin-English Dictionary,' 700,—Dr. Wm. Smith's 'Smaller Latin-English Dictionary of Mythology, Biography, and Geography, '600,—Dr. Wm. Smith's 'Classical Dictionary of Mythology, Biography, and Geography, '600,—Tr. Wm. Smith's 'Smaller Classical Dictionary,' 1,500,—Dr. Wm. Smith's 'Smaller Dictionary of Antiquities,' 1,000,—'The Student's Hume,' 2,600,—'The Student's History of Greece of 2,400,—'A Smaller History of Greece for Junior Classes,' by Dr. Wm. Smith, 1,500,—'The Student's History of Rome,' by Dean Lid Greecefor Junior Classes, 'by Dr. Wm. Smith, 1,500,

"The Student's History of Rome,' by Dean Liddell, 1,900,—'The Student's Gibbon,' 700,—

'King Edward the Sixth Latin Grammar,' 3,500,
Mrs. Markham's 'History of England,' 6,400,—

'Little Arthur's History of France,' 2,500,—

'Little Arthur's History of England,' by Lady
Callcott, 6,500,—and James's 'Æsop's Fables,'

We are requested to state that a book advertised as 'Adam Bede, jun.: a Sequel,' is not by the Author of 'Adam Bede.'

Dainty and plentiful are the Christmas books this year—better, for the most part, in substance, if not more brilliant in execution than usual. The pretty things are ceasing, as a class, to be mere artistic toys-and are rising to the dignity of an illuminated literature. But there are still exceptions. 'Gems from Shelley,' from the press of Messrs. Paul Jerrard & Son, is a mere toy—a mere prettiness of garlands and gold, without meaning, beyond its brightness and colour. Not much better, though with a great deal more assumption, is the 'Book of Favourite Ballads' (Kent & Co.)-chiefly notice able for its poverty of illustration, and for its insertion of a great number of poems which are not ballads at all, 'Common Wayside Flowers,' by Thomas Miller, published by Messrs. Routledge, so of higher quality and more legitimate aim. From this pretty volume children may learn some botany in a pleasant way; and they may be tempted by it into the fields for comparison and identification. The enamel binding is a clever innovation in a department of Art somewhat slow to rise out of hundrum. 'Metrical Tales,' by Mr. Samuel Lover (Houlston & Wright), and 'The Song of Hiawatha,' by Mr. Longfellow (Kent & Co.), are books of illustration—a little in the old style—not mere prettinesses, perhaps, with text and picture of different growths, and only brought together by the printer—yet with a certain timidity and conventionality in the form which might be got rid of, if the artist would only study the text and genius of his author. Mr. Lover's volume will be a favourite at the winter fire.

Our notes on the want of a general county history of Hampshire have brought us information which our readers in that interesting shire will be glad to share. Sir Frederick Madden, a Hants man himself, has employed his time, knowledge and rare opportunities to the making of a collection of materials for a history of the county. How he the work may have gone we are not told. We also hear that Mr. B. B. Woodward, of the Society of Antiquaries, has already prepared and will shortly publish the first part of a General History of Hampshire. This work is to be in three quarto volumes, and will therefore rival, in bulk at least, some of the best histories of English shires.

Cecil pulled down a fine old gate at Canterbury to steal the stone. All Kent cried out against him —but the thing was done, the material brought to London and built into that Britain's Bourse which has long disappeared from the Strand,-that was in the seventeenth century. A report is abroad of an intention to remove the King's Gate adjoining to and, in fact, incorporated with the old Church of St. Swithin, in the City of Winchester. Surely this cannot be true. If so, it is another and earnest proof of the need for a Hampshire Archeological Society.

A course of lectures is in progress of deliver

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at the Science and Art Department of the South Kensington Museum. Two lectures, 'On the Budrum Sculptures in the British Museum, and their Bolation to Architecture, by C. T. Newton, and 'On the Chemistry of Food,' by Dr. Lankester, have been given. On Monday next, Dr. Lankester will lecture 'On the Preparation of Food.' ter will lecture 'On the Preparation of Food.' On the 5th of December the Rev. W. H. Brookfield will lecture 'On Lessening the Irksomeness of Instruction.' On the 12th, Harry Chester will tell the public 'How to set about the Building of a

Instruction. On the 12th, Harry Chester will tell the public 'How to set about the Building of a School.' And on the 19th Dr. G. Kinkel will discourse 'On the Progress of Seeing.' Messrs. Low & Co. have greatly improved their Index to Current Literature. It now contains a list of the new books published during the quarter ending Sept. 30, together with a list of such articles as the compiler has thought worthy of reference in the Atheneum, Times, Edinburgh Review, and other periodicals. The latter list might, we think, be profitably extended. The demand for early news, and early comments on news, in letters and art, no less than in politics and trade, is drawing the best thought and best writing of the age into periodical literature. Such a scheme as theirs must always fail to please every one. Paper and type are fixed within material limits, while the desires of the student are dreamily boundless and sublime. The reader wants to know everything; the Index can only refer to to know everything ; the Index can only refer to certain sources of contemporary knowledge. What Messrs. Low & Co. have done in this first part of their Index seems to us a fair compromise with

of their Index seems to us a fair compromise with a great difficulty. We wish them every success.

Mrs. Murray's bright and clever book of 'An Artist's Life in Morocco, Spain, and the Canary Islands' has met with some rather rough criticism at Santa Cruz. Mr. Murray, the artist's husband, is English Consul for the Canaries; and some of the artist's free observations on life in those summery isles, particularly on official life, have been received with hidalgo pride and indignation. Don Joaquin Ravenet, civil governor and military commander for the Queen of Spain, has taken upon him to resent the insults levelled against the official class in Spain. Mr. Murray has been ejected from the Santa Cruz club, and Don Joaquin has petitioned his government to require the recall of Mr. Murray from his post. We do not suppose Lord John Russell will pay much attention to the anger of Don Joaquin; but the mischief of official anger of both over the could wish our Consuls' wives and sisters would refrain from publicly criticizing the conduct of the people with whom they live.

Prince Lucien Bonaparte, our expert philologist, has printed, for private circulation, two more specimens of English dialects as spoken in the present year. One specimen is in the Cornish dialect,—the other is in that of Dorset. The latter is the more droll and curious. For each specimen the Song of Solomon has been chosen; so that comparisons between the two are as easy as they are

A friend in Belfast adds to our remarks in a recent number on 'Titles of Courtesy' that the name of "Sovereign" has been dropped by the chief magistrate of that town. In 1843, when a change was made in the municipal arrangements, the first magistrate assumed the more usual designation of

Mayor.
Prof. Henslow writes:— "Hitcham, Bildeston, Saffolk, Nov. 22.
"I am sorry I got the proof of my letter inserted in last week's Athenœum, too late to correct an error which is of consequence. In the sentence which details the experience of the younger man, who is, I believe, the foreman of the brick-pit, the word 'some' occurs for none. It should have been— He had found two celts near the surface, but was and found two celts near the surface, but was positive that none had occurred in the bed where the fossils are met with. It has been suggested to show that the artist, though past his to the fossils are met with. It has been suggested to show that the artist, though past his to the fossils are met with. It has been suggested to show that the artist, though past his began to show that the artist, though past his fittieth year, was still capable of advancing in his told different inquirers. If so their testimony is valueless. I can only say I was very careful not to put leading questions to either of them, until I had heard their respective stories. I then endeavoured to impress them with the importance of strict accuracy. Both were very positive forms and directness suggestive of higher powers than the painter had yet put forth.

tive in maintaining their own convictions, and supposed there must have been some misapprehension of facts in the old report of celts having been found in an undisturbed portion of the beds which contain fossil remains, and from which the brick-earth is obtained. This case does not appear to be a parallel to that at Amiens; how that is to be interpreted time and further research will show.

J. S. HENSLOW." The University of St. Andrews has sustained a loss in the death of the Professor of Logic, Mr. William Spalding, which took place on the 16th inst. He was not much known out of his own country-though he had previously occupied a chair at Edinburgh—until two years ago, when he published an 'Introduction to Logic.' This work is one of great thought and reading, and will remain associated with the history of the science, as part of the discussion which had been, and still is, carried on as to its principles.

as to its principles.

Death has been very busy of late among Scottish

Professors and men of letters. To the list of good
men gone from our side we have now to add the
name of Dr. George Wilson, the biographer of
Reid and Cavendish, and a frequent Correspondent
of this journal. Dr. Wilson was the First Regius

Professor of Technology in the University of Edinburgh, and Director of the Industrial Museum of
that city. Dr. Wilson was in no small degree the
originator of that Museum: he graye to it his heart originator of that Museum; he gave to it his heart, his genius, and his hopes of success and fame. Six years ago he was appointed to the joint offices; and it was at that period that the long-delayed project of establishing an industrial museum for Scotland in Edinburgh was first seriously con-templated by Government. A long strife suc-ceeded to the first idea of founding this institution, ceeded to the first idea of founding this institution, and it has only very recently been put on a ground for commencing real operations. His loss is serious for the young institution. Besides the Lives of Reid and Cavendish, Dr. Wilson had written an 'Elementary Treatise on Chemistry,' 'Researches in Colour-Blindness,' and 'The Five Gateways of Knowledge.' He was born in Edinburgh in 1818. The world has lost in him—at the early age of forty-one—a good man and a most worthy servant

Frank Stone, whose death took place, on Friday last week, very suddenly, from heart disease, was an artist who will keep his place in the series of the English School. Though not a man of strong genius,—sentimental and safe rather than daring and great,-he had that touch of native inspiration which sets an artist apart from the crowd of mere imitators and mechanists. His pictures have a quality of their own, in subject, style, and colour: he saw nature in the boudoir; and was the poet of chess-table flirtations and pianoforte embarrass-ments. But in this line he was unrivalled, though he had numberless imitators, from the moment he had shown the way to a new success. He may almost be said to have founded a sect among the painters—believers in the unheaved sigh and the causeless tear! Mr. Stone was born in Manchester, on the 23rd of August, 1800, and began to paint when he was already a full man. At thirty-one when he was already a full man. At thirty-one he came to London, and began to exhibit at the Water-Colour Society. At forty he sent his first oil-picture to the Academy. At fifty-one he was elected an Associate. For many years his works have taken a good place among the attractions of the May Exhibition. Who has forgotten 'The Last Appeal,' 'Cross Purposes,' 'Impending Mate' and 'Mated,' and 'The Old, Old Story'? Five many the artist made, a surrors. Mate' and 'Mated,' and 'Ine Old, Old Story': Five or six years ago the artist made a summer residence in Boulogne; and the effect of that slight change of scene has been visible in nearly all his subsequent works. The hale, rugged beauty of the fishwives of Boulogne seems to have fired his imagination and steadied his hand. A breadth, a texture,

The sea-side claimed him to the last; and at the very moment when the brush fell from his hand, he had just completed his arrangements for spend-ing the winter at his easel in the Isle of Thanet.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION of CABINET PICTURES, Drawings, and Sketches, the Contributions of BRITISH ARTISTS, is NOW OPEN, at the French Gallery, 129, Pall Mall.—Admission, 1a.; Catalogues, 6d. Open from Ten to Five.

ROYAL INSTITUTE of ANATOMY and SCIENCE, 309, OXFORD STREET. Principal, Dr. W. E. MARSTON. Open daillor Gentlemen only, from Eleven till Ten. Admission, one daillor of the street of the

SCIENCE

Beach Rambles in Search of Sea-side Pebbles and Crystals; with some Observations on the Origin of the Diamond and other Precious Stones. By J. G. Francis. (Routledge.)

LIKE Demosthenes of old, we have often paced the sea-beach in search of pebbles, but with a very different purpose. He picked up pebbles to put them in his mouth, we to put them in our pocket,—he to enable him to speak, we to enable to the put them in our pocket,—he to enable him to speak, we to enable us to polish. Along nearly all the favourable shores that loosely girdle our island we have at one time or other trodden with downward aspect. Not that we have been insensible to the unnumbered smiles of the billowed ocean (to adopt the figure of Æschylus), but that we have often turned from the grand or gloomy monotony of the loud-sounding sea to investigate the wonderful mineralogical miscellany that lay at our feet. In this there are specimens of many rocks—selected, reduced, and rounded as if for our special convenience, and brought into one wave-beaten level that we might be spared the necessity of seeking jasper in its native con-glomerate, agate in its mountain nest, porphyry and serpentine in their original traps and basalts, and flint nodules in their high and unreachable lodgments in lofty chalk cliffs. To-detach, reduce, round, and roll up all these varied specimens has been the unceasing labour of billow after billow and storm after storm. What the tremendous force of a huge wave is we too sadly know in the disastrous results of the recent tempests that have lashed our shores. Strange contrast is this, that the mountain-like billows which dash into hopeless wrecks the strongly-built ships of man's construction, that cast down massive sea-walls as though they cast down massive sea-waits as though they were things of mist, that disturb the most ponderous masonry of artificial breakwaters, that make weird-like sport with our most mighty bulwarks,—yet leave no other proofs of their tremendous momentum upon the exposed beaches than the addition of a multitude of little rounded fragments of stone, and the removal for a few yards further of those that had previously lain long undisturbed! Thus it is that the little nodule now in our

hands has borne the beating upon its flinty breast of a thousand waves and madly rush-ing tides. The enormous billows that imperilled a Great Eastern and shattered a Royal Charter, would have merely rounded it a little more, made it smoother, and moved it onward. No art of man can construct a breakwater so perfect as that which is found in a beach of pebbles. Each constituent stone is most easily moved, yet the whole mass is never moved together. The violence of a rushing tide is poured harmlessly upon the shelving shingle, again, removed only to be erected again by the succeeding waves, swept down into the deep only to be restored to the shore, and raised into a new battery which shall consist of the same uninjured materials. The warfare of the waters upon such a field as this is but a perpetual recurrence of demolition and reconstruction, sudden breach and immediate repair, fierce attack and rapid retreat, occasional defeat and then long and calm resistance during seasons of peace and quietude.

It follows from what we have said that while a pebble beach on our coast possesses a permanent general character as to its principal mineralogical constituents, it is, nevertheless, in the course of constant partial change. Headlands, such as Beachy Head, form terminal points towards which the travelling shingles tend, and where they tarry, as if at a coast station, until powerful tides sweep them round the promontory, discharge them into the curve of an elliptical bay, and there leave them locked up for century upon century. It is with pebbles as with men-one that is smooth and rounded has evidently travelled far, but you may be sure that an angular lump has been much in one place, while a slippery oval has doubtless been half round our island and mingled with all classes and conditions of siliceous society. These distinctions are as certainly felt while one is bathing as seen when one is beaching.

Good pebbles in this moveable mass are as scarce as good people in the moving crowd. Few of either are worth the trouble and cost of polishing. Here and there one may pick up a real agate or a true man. Neither, however, are to be found everyday or everywhere. Disappointments are frequent, success is rare. Good people, we hope, are becoming more abundant,—yet certainly good pebbles are becoming scarcer. The beaches that once held them in plentiful distribution hold them so no longer. You may wander whole days from headland to headland, and patiently along all the curving course between, to find that it only proves its barrenness of valuable stones. Yet an educated eye may possibly detect one and another which has eluded your observation, for as much vigilance is demanded in finding choice flints as in catching good fish. As some anglers will hook half-a-dozen trout while others have taken none, so some lapidaries will bag a beautiful carnelian or a fine choanite where you have pocketed nothing but sandagates and siliceous varieties. Success in carnelians is as uncertain as success in life;fortune here is as capricious as in courtshippebble-finding is as unaccountable as popularity. The probabilities at least are in your favour when the sun is at your back, yet not backward to shine, when a light gale is in your face, the tide half out, the troubles of life at low water-mark, your eye penetrating, your ham-mer massive, and your hand sufficiently steady to make the blow alight on the stone and not on your shins. Lapidaries can best fracture the stones by holding them in a peculiar man-ner in the left hand, but the novice is far more likely to hit his palm than his pebble. This, therefore, is not an unskilled calling, for unless you are thoroughly versed in it you will miss your pebbles, lose your time, main your limb, and, in consequence, instead of having your spirit elevated by the scene, come back with a heart as flinty as the nodules on which your feet have trodden.

Say not, then, that a book of instructions and directions in so simple a pastime is unnecessary. A living lapidary, however, is better still, or some marine vagrant who knows the particular beach and is admitted to the freemasonry of choice flints. For months we

perambulated amongst pebbles on a certain coast unsuccessfully, until we fell in with a wandering Irishman, who accompanied us as our double, and, in consideration of a certain per-centage, pointed out to us the haunts of the precious stones, and, what is more, in-structed us how to know when we had one in hand. Even he, however, often failed in this last point, for to predict what is inside by what is outside often surpasses the most prac-tised eye. One of our best choanites was hammered to pieces by a Brighton lapidary, who had at first rashly pronounced it valueless, but, when too late, acknowledged that it would have made a beautiful specimen.

Cautions as well as directions are very needful for this occupation. To say, Beware of slipping on the weed-covered rocks, near which good pebbles often lie in little intertidal pools, may seem superfluous; but there is a danger which besets all agate-hunters, and which has imperilled the lives of more than one that we wot of-the unthought-of return of the tide. Fondness for chalcedonies often leads to forgetfulness of the sea; and some earnest stone-seekers have found that a gaily spent afternoon has been fol-lowed by an unhappy night spent in the too close neighbourhood of the sea. The base of a chalk cliff proves a most uncomfortable couch, and it is much pleasanter to look over pebbles in the light than to lie down upon them in the darkness. The best curvilinear beaches are precisely those in which the wanderer is most

exposed to this mischance.

There is a fashion in pebbles as well as in other things; at one time "the run" is upon "bloodstones," or jaspers; at another upon carnelians; at another upon moss agates. The prevailing demand of late years has been for "landscape agates" and for choanites. The latter term must be explained. This name was given by Dr. Mantell, who thought the stone like a funnel; and availing himself of a Greek Lexicon, at once christened it. To us it seems, in a cross section, to be more like a spider than a funnel, and might just as appropriately have been named, Arachnite. Either term would have satisfied the lapidaries, and proved to them as hard as the stone itself. A beautiful creature it is when fully silicified and spread out, with its hundred feelers, through a clear and well-cut pebble; not a Briareus in bulk, but quite its equal in the number of its feelers. A transverse section of a fine choanite displays this elegant molluse, now probably extinct, to the dullest eye in unexpected beauty. Metallic infiltrations perhaps have tinged it, and then its attractiveness is not surpassed even by the living anemone which may have fixed itself upon the stony coffin of its old-world proto-So charming are these prizes of the beach, that not only ladies, but even grave men, lawyers, brewers, and shoemakers, are ever on the watch to secure them; nor need any Brighton or Hastings lapidary who may fall in with them bewail them as unsaleable articles. Two, three, and five guineas have been given for unusually fine and large specimens.

But the lapidary himself must not be forgotten. He lives by revolutions, -yet only of His trade is not a bad one; if skilful and civil, he can earn from 100l. to 150l. per annum, without night-work. His shop may be passed unheeded, but it is worth a visit. A shark's head swings over the door (we sketch from a Brighton reminiscence), a chalk ammonite lies at one side of the step, and a huge mass of conglomerate at the other. Enter, and you see a little shop crowded with everything appertaining to pebbles and sea-weeds. Under a glasscase are agate brooches, slit choanites, sharks' teeth from the chalk, half-a-dozen choanites,

with stone seals, earrings, shirt pins, and fingerrings. But the little inner room is the sanctum. There rush round the metallic wheels of the machine,—there goes on the grinding,—there are stores of diamond-dust for slitting, emery for polishing, and every kind of requisite for eliciting hidden beauty from the long-sought treasures of the beach. Shelves range above the operator, filled with the rejected produce of beach researches. Unprofitable and unpolished sections, disappointing interiors, and falsified ex. pectations, are heaped up here in careless profusion, and might minister sombre reflections to any moody moralist.

To all beach-parading lads and lasses this little book may prove attractive and instructive, though some errors are unaccountable; -witness "quartz are" (p. 36); and "descending order" heads a list of strata commencing with "Lava, Granite, and Old Red Sandstone" (p. 180). In the body of the work Mr. Francis should polish the body of the work Mr. Prancis should poush his sentences as well as his pebbles. The brief index is curiously remiss. Under "Actinia, Agate, Alcyonite," and, in all twenty-one terms, we find no other reference than passim. Indexes in this style might be easily constructed.
We would insert one other term in this, and just before "Flint, passim," and it should be-Faults, passim. The chromo-plates are beautifully executed; but the specimens selected are by no means the finest for display. Three or four cabinets in London and its suburbs would have afforded far more beautiful and instructive examples. One specimen is absurdly described as a "myriapod," which is obviously a common choanite.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Nov. 17.—Sir B. Brodie, Bart., President, in the chair.—Capt. Galton, J. D. Macdonald, G. M. Humphry, and W. Odling, Esquewere admitted into the Society.—A paper waread by Capt. M'Clintock, R.N., 'Report of Scientific Researches made during the late Arctic Expedition of the Yacht Fox in search of the Franklin Exhibition.'-At the conclusion of the paper, General Sabine gave an account of Capt. M'Clintock's magnetical observations, which are of great value.

GEOLOGICAL.—Nov. 2.—Prof. J. Phillips, President, in the chair.—Messrs.W.Fryer, H. C. Salmon, and the Rev. S. G. Phear, were elected Fellows. Dr. F. Roemer was elected a Foreign Member. The following communications were read :- 'On the Passage-beds from the Upper Silurian Rocks into the Lower Old Red Sandstone, at Ledbury, Herefordshire,' by the Rev. W. S. Symonds.— 'On the so-called Mud-volcanos of Turbaco, near Carthagena,' by F. Bernall, Esq.—'On the Coal-Formation at Auckland, New Zealand,' by H. Weekes, Esq.—'On the Geology of the Southeast part of Vancouver's Island,' by H. Bauer

Nov. 16.—Prof. J. Phillips, President, in the chair.—Messrs. T. Harlin, J. H. Tolmé, J. Lancaster, the Hon. R. Mersham, and A. Rogers, were elected Fellows. - The following communication was read:— 'Supplementary Researches among the Crystalline Rocks of the North-west High-lands,' by Sir R. I. Murchison.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Nov. 17.—O. Morgan, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—Mr. G. Scharf exhitted the portrait of a lady and child, bearing the date 1594.—Mr. C. Reed exhibited a portion of an ancient British boat, found on a mountain in Carnarvon.-Mr. C. Markham exhibited the war-club of Colocola, the Araucanian Chief who opposed the Spaniards in the sixteenth century .-Markham communicated extracts from a MS. volume, containing notices of the family of Mark-ham by Gervase Markham. Also, a pedigree of the family signed by Camden.

STATISTICAL.— Nov. 15.—Col. Sykes, V.P., M.P., in the chair.— T. Ellison, F. Hincks, B.

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Smith, P. M. Tait, and W. G. Wilks, Esqs., Smith, F. M. Tais, and W. G. Whas, Essis, were elected Fellows.—The Chairman announced that the Council had appointed a Committee to take into consideration the best mode of taking the forthcoming census, which Committee would the forthcoming census, which committee would be glad to receive any suggestions which the Fel-lows of the Society might wish to make. The Chairman also gave an account of the proceedings of Section F. of the British Association, at its meeting at Aberdeen in September last; and Mr. meeting at Aberdeen in September last; and Mr. J. Heywood furnished a similar report of the proceedings of the National Social Science Association at its recent meeting at Bradford.—Sir F. H. Goldsmid, Bart., Q.C., then read a paper 'On some Recent Statistics of Prussia.' Sir Francis commenced by stating, that the paper which he was about to read, was deduced from the very valuable series of returns published by the Prussian Statistical Department, for the year 1849. But as these returns were comprised in several quarto youlumes, of many hundred paces each, he quarto volumes, of many hundred pages each, he (the author) had found it necessary to confine his attention to only a portion of their contents. He had therefore selected for analysis the 2nd vol. of the Returns, which contained the statistics of births, marriages and deaths. One of the most remarkable facts in connexion with the births, both in Prussia and in Continental Europe gene rally, was the very large proportion of illegitimate to legitimate births. It was stated by the editor of the Prussian returns, that while in London the children born out of wedlock are only one in twenty, in Paris and Vienna every third child is illegitimate; and in Munich, years have even occurred when the number of illegitimate births have outnumbered the legitimate. In Prussia itself, however, the relative proportions of these two classes ever, the relative proportions of these two classes of births is not so largely to the disadvantage of the latter, and it is worthy of remark, that no material alteration has taken place, in this respect, since the year 1816. In that year the illegitimate births were to the legitimate as 8.05, in 1849 as 7.96 to 100. In Westphalia, however, in the province of Posen, and the Rhenish provinces, the proportion of illegitimate births is only about half proportion of Hiegitimate births is only about hair as great as in the other parts of the kingdom. With regard to the proportion of births to the population in Prussia, Sir Francis stated, that from 1810 to 1825 the proportion was about 1 to 23, from 1828 to 1846 about 1 to 25 or 26, but that in 1849 it again reached 1 to 23. In the towns the proportion is 1 to 25.68, in the country as 1 to 22.88. In Berlin, in the year 1849, the proportion was 1 to 30.81. As regards the different religious communities the proportions among Petrotera and Cathelias in chart the proportions. Protestants and Catholics is about the same, but among the Jews and Mennonites it is smaller. This is accounted for, as respects the Jews, by the fact, that Jewish disabilities are not yet removed in Prussia. The proportion of male to female births is much the same in Prussia as in other countries. Since 1816 the excess of male over female births has been pretty nearly uniform at 6 per cent., for the whole kingdom; but it is a noticeable fact that among liegitimate births the noticeable fact that among liegitimate births the noticeable fact that among illegitimate births the relative proportions are smaller than among legitimate. Among the former there are only 103.7 boys to 100 girls, while among the latter the proportion is 105.79 to 100. The death-rate, as compared with the births, was, in 1849, 498,862 as against 691,562; and while the excess of male births was 19,428, the excess of male deaths was 13,826. It was found that boys and wong are did a more quickly than still a solution of the same of t and young men died more quickly than girls and young women. Between the ages of 25 and 30 the deaths were equal in both sexes. From 30 to 40 the excess was on the female side; after that, to 60, it was on the male side again; so that that, to 60, it was on the male side again; so that among very old persons, it was found that more females died than males. The rate of mortality in Prussia, as compared with the population, varied between 1816 and 1849, from 1 in 28 to 1 in 37, the highest mortality having been in 1831, the cholera year. The editor of the returns, in reference to the causes of this excessive mortality, advocated a theory which had also been favoured by Yon Humboldt—that difference of race had some influence on the rate of mortality. But Six Funcision influence on the rate of mortality. But Sir Francis expressed his belief, that drainage, ventilation,

water-supply, and other sanitary precautions, had more to do with health and longevity than anything else, although it was undoubtedly the fact, that the rate of mortality is higher among the Sclavonic than the purely German races. It was worthy of remark that the mortality among the Jews in Prussia was considerably less than among the rest pocket, and take therefrom a carline, value 4d, of the poweletion considerably less than among the rest pocket, and take therefrom a carline, value 4d, of the poweletion considerably less than among the rest pocket, and take therefrom a carline, value 4d, or the properties of the poweletion considerably less than among the rest pocket, and take therefrom a carline, value 4d, or the properties of the poweletion considerably less than among the rest pocket, and take therefrom a carline, value 4d, or the properties of the poweletion considerably less than among the rest pocket. the rate of mortality is higher among the Sclavonic than the purely German races. It was worthy of remark that the mortality among the Jews in Prussia was considerably less than among the rest of the population, a circumstance which Sir Francis attributed to the diet, temperance, and superior cleanliness of that community.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Nov. 22.— Dr. Gray, V.P., in the chair.—Dr. Günther gave an account of the Reptiles, Batrachians, and Fishes collected by the Rev. H. B. Tristram in the Algerian Sahara. Among these were two species new to science, viz., a Lizard belonging to the genus Zootoca, and proposed to be called Zootoca deserti, and a Fish from the Salt Lakes of the Sahara which was confrom the Salt Lakes of the Sahara, which was considered to form a new genus and species of the family Chromide, and was named after its discoverer Haliogenes Tristramii.—Mr. Sclater described some new Birds from the Rio Napo, and read a note on some remarkable hybrid Ducks, bred in the on some remarkable hybrid Ducks, bred in the Society's gardens between the Shieldrake (Tadorna vulpanser) and the Whitefaced Casarca (Casarca cana).—Mr. D. G. Elliot, of New York, exhibited three specimens of hybrid Ducks shot on Long Island, U.S.A.—Mr. F. Moore communicated a list of Malayan Birds, in continuation of former papers on the same subject.—Dr. Hamilton made remarks upon specimens of some young Pheasants which he exhibited. These birds carried the plumage of the cock bird upon the breast, and of the hen bird upon the back. Neither testes nor ovaries could be found on dissection.-Mr. Bartlett gave a notice of a Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) gave a notice of a Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) which was bred in the Society's gardens two years ago, and which was in the habit of passing the winter in the Gardens, and absenting itself during the summer months, as it was supposed for the purpose of breeding.—Dr. Gray described two new forms of sponges under the names Macandrewia and Myliusia.

Society of Arts.—Nov. 23.—W. H. Bodkin, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—The paper read was 'On China and its Relations to British Commerce,' by Sir John Bowring.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

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Royal Avadeany, 8.—On Anatomy, by Prof. Partridge.
Institute of Actuaries, 7.—On the Rationale of certain
full results of the Prof. Prof. Partridge.
Geographical, 8!.—'Sun Signals for the Use of Tavellers,
by Mr. Galton.—'Latest Accounts of the Central Africa
Expedition, from Dr. Livingstone.'—'Notes on Capt.
Montgomeries Map of Kashmir, by Mr. Purdon.
Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—'On Arterial Drainage
and Outfalls, by Mr. Grantham.
Royal, 4.—'Anniversary.
Cost Mines, by Art. Holland.
Geological, 8.—'On some Copper Relies found in a GoldBearing in Siberia, by Mr. Atkinson.—'On the Extinct
Volcances of Auckland, New Zealand, by Mr. Heaphy,—
'On some Tertiary Beds in South Australia,' by the
Rev. J. E. Woods.
3. Linnean, 8.

. Limneau, 8.
Society of Antiquaries, 8.
Chemical, 8.— On the Vapour Densities of Organic
Bodies, by Dr. Hofmann.
Archeological Institute, 4.
Asiatic, 2.

FINE ARTS

PICTURES AND PENCE IN NAPLES.

Yesterday I went to see the Exhibition of Paintings, which has this year proved the de-cline and degradation of Art in this country. come and degradation of Art in this country. Porters and curators meet you at every step, and each one stands by the little iron gate of his department, key in hand, inviting you by grimace or words to enter in. The impression of some may be that the Museum people are the most courteous on the face of the earth, and that the institution is one of the heat multiplication. that the institution is one of the best regulated in Europe; whilst others, who have lost their verdure, would compare the aspect of things to that of a large bazaar, where every individual salesman is large bazaar, where every individual salesman is urging upon your attention the different articles he wishes to dispose of. You enter the Herculaneum Gallery on the left; the bronze man on the right looks sold, and places himself in attitude of vigilance to wait your coming out, or the arrival of some other forestiere. After a time you re-appear sure to be brought out, and the success of Achille

and give it to your moustached, amiable con ductor; and then go across to the bronze man and do the same, and the sore faringe, and the Pompeii people, and,—in short, I shall lose my breath with indignation. There are eleven rooms in the Museo Borbonico, each one a mine of antiquarian and artistic wealth. At each iron gate, always kept well locked, you will pay at least your 4d.; for if you have ladies in your party, your younger curators smooth their moustaches and are full of information, and it would be advance to give them less than \$2.4. smooth their moustaches and are full of miorimators, and it would be a shame to give them less than 8d.—"Would it not, mamma?" For a fusty old fellow like myself, however, 4d. would be enough; but eleven 4d. make 3s. 8d., which is the tax imposed. by the Government on one admission to the Museo Borbonico. I say advisedly imposed by the Government; for it renders this extortion, this mendicity (call it by whatever name you like), necessary by the small salaries it gives to its officers, or by neglecting to draw up and enforce good regulations. I took the trouble to inquire into the pay tions. I took the trouble to inquire into the pay of these *employés*, and ascertained that four have 20 ducats a month, or 3l. 10s.; ten have 14 ducats, or 2l. 6s.; eight receive 10 ducats, or 1l. 15s.; two have 8 ducats, or 1l. 10s.; and two have 5 ducats, or 1ss. a month. I believe the office is much sought after. The persons employed are very superior to their low salaries, turn out well, and you are induced to ask how in the name of and you are induced to ask, how, in the name of Heaven, can a man, rejoicing in 18s. a month, indulge in that glossy black coat? There is one word here well known which explains all—the "lucri" do it. The "lucri" feed the Judge and the Chancellor, enrich those who administer the affairs of the army, support that dashing equipage which has just driven by, and maintain the decent exterior of the employé in the Royal Bourbon Muexterior of the employé in the Royal Bourbon Museum. To confine my remarks, however, to the subject of this paper, it is a disgraee to this country, and a great injury to Art, that the mendicity of the public officers should impose so high a tax on the privilege of seeing so splendid and curious a collection as that which Naples possesses. At the beginning of the season more especially it is well to call public attention to the facts. There are hundreds and thousands who visit this capital avere to call public attention to the facts. There are hundreds and thousands who visit this capital every year who are prevented from following up their studies, or indulging in the intellectual enjoyment of a visit to the Museo, by the sight of the curator with his key dangling over his finger. Every one pays his visit and his tax onec; but there are very many to whom it would be inconvenient to pay repeatedly. There has been an exhibition of the works of Neanolitian artists this year: I might have done of Neapolitan artists this year; I might have done well to retain the Italian word "Esposizione," as resembling more our word exposure; for certainly never has Naples witnessed so meagre, so disgraceful, an assemblage of the productions of those who claim to represent the artistic mind of this once casum to represent the artistic mind of this once celebrated city. On going through the rooms, with some notable exceptions, it was difficult to persuade oneself that one was in Italy—the land which was formerly grand and dignified by the genius of her sons. A number of sign-painters or stone-cutters might have been the authors of the great proportion of the works; and pity is it for the honour of the country that the Exhibition of 1859 has ever taken place.

place.

Among the causes of this decline, I must point out a prohibition which has existed for some years to any student to proceed to Rome for the purposes of improvement. By the rules of the Academy, which is under the auspices of the Government, there is a competition every six years between the students of the Institution, and pensions of 30 ducats a month are granted for six years, to the two best painters, the two best architects, and the two best sculptors. A house was received for them in Rome, and every advantage of the control of

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fears the infection of the Roman spirit, seeks to insulate the Neapolitan mind, and has therefore prohibited any of its students from visiting that pestiferous locality. The competition, however, continues, and pensions are still granted, which are spent in that condemned city, Naples. In the upper apartment of the Museum they pursue their studies, where professors are provided for them, but

no nude models are allowed.

To enter into the details of this Exhibition: there are 355 pictures, 53 pieces of sculpture, 190 designs in architecture, 44 other designs, 3 copper-plate engravings, 37 productions by the Scuola di Per-fezionamento, and 267 works from the students of the Royal Institution. Both in painting and sculpture there is not a little flattery insinuated to various members of the Royal Family. There are many Ferdinands and St. Ferdinands, and the name of the late pious sovereign is never mentioned in the Catalogue except with the addition of "Gloriosa ricordanza." There are three Santa-Teresas in honour of the Queen stepmother, who bears that name, and one St. Christiana, in delicate allusion name, and one St. Christians, in delicate attuson to the mother of His Majesty, who, under the same name, is in process of beatification. There are also two St. Francises. Amongst the designs in water-colours is the 'Project of a Monument to be raised in Honour of the Most Holy Immaculate Virgin, decorated with the Likenesses of the various august personages of the Reigning Bourbon Dynasty, of whom the said Holy Virgin is the capecial Protectoress.' Such are the little specimens of insinuated flattery showing the servility of Art, or of Neapolitan Art, at the present moment.

FINE-ART GOSSIP. - The Royal Academicians are called together on the 5th of December to consider the first of those measures of organic re-form which the public have begun to demand at their hands—an increase in the number of Associates. The discussion will come on at the instance of Mr. Cope. A good feeling is said to prevail in the Academy towards this opening; and the adoption of Mr. Cope's reform would go far to replace the Academy in public and parliamentary confidence. It would be the first step in its eleva-tion to the rank of a National Academy. Some members, we hear, express opinions in favour of abolishing the Associateship altogether; though, probably, the adoption of a law of unlimited Associateships would meet this view. The true theory seems to be that of the Universities and the Inns of Court. Every artist should have the right to an association with the Academy on establishing his artistic claim.

The death of Frank Stone, noticed in another column, leaves another vacancy in the Associate-There are now the very ship of the Academy. unusual number of four vacancies in the Academy -one seat at the board in place of James Wardthree places in the Associateship, vice Messrs. John Phillip, Sydney Smirke, and Frank Stone.

Mr. David Roberts has collected together the whole of his sketches made in Spain in the years whole of his sketches made in Spain in the years 1892 and 1838, with a view to their being seen, by the London public, in mass. These works, we hear, have become the property of a gentleman in Lancashire, and will shortly be sent away. Lovers of "tawny Spain"—how Shakspeare can paint a country in a word!—will be delighted to get a sight of these picturesque. lighted to get a sight of these picturesque and brilliant drawings. A private view takes place to-day, Saturday.

We are glad to hear from Manchester that Mr. Hammersley, Mr. Brodie, and their brother artists, have, at length, established an Academy of Fine Arts in that city. Their success, thus far, is creditable to themselves and to Manchester. They will commence operations at once; and under such favourable circumstances as regards place of exhibition and the like, as will receive the confidence and co-operation of London artists in their plan.

Monuments for Schiller will be erected at Berlin, Vienna, Frankfort, Mannheim, and Mayence.

A portrait of the late youthful Queen of Portugal, Stephanie, painted by Prof. Sohn, of Düsseldorf, for Queen Victoria, is just completed. It is

Vertrumi is a proof of it. But the Government life-size, and is said to have that faithfulness and delicacy of conception for which Prof. Sohn is reputed.

> Mr. Wallis, the picture-dealer, has opened an Exhibition of Modern Paintings. The public, in going to see them, however, must carefully distinguish between an exhibition merely opened to sell a dealer's stock on hand, and an exhibition opened to promote Art, by exhibiting the latest works of rising men. Mr. Wallis's sale-room will well repay a visit, for it contains some great and well-known pictures by living and dead men-pictures that have excited but not satiated curiosity—such as Mr. Poole's grand picture of Job and the Messengers (No. 24), and the lurid and terribly impressive scene of Solomon Eagle during the Plague (2).—Amongst other specially valuable pictures, some of which should be in the Vernon Collection, are Etty's Hercules slaying the Man of Kalydon (6), a gorgeous bit of study, but unusually unmeaning,—Mr. Hook's excellent Passing Cloud (35), the rustic lovers' quarrel,-Constable's Opening of Waterloo Bridge (29), a strange speckly work of great, ambition,—and a most laboured and solid picture of Callcott's, Diana and her Nymphs (32), brown and dark, but still no common picture, with a fine, thoughtful, deep, though rather cold sky. Amongst the new works, Mr. Dobson's beautiful Gretchen (65) stands out pre-eminent. It seems a study of a little German peasant girl, and to be the result of a late German tour. The little browneyed darling, innocent as the angels, is sturdily dragging a vineyard basket, plaited with coloured osier, through a wood, the leaves and boughs of osier, through a wood, the leaves and boughs of which are made out with care yet breadth. This picture is worthy any gallery. Mr. Le Jeune, though in comparison sadly Keepsakey and unreal, has brought up all his knowledge and shown all he knows in his Mother of Moses (154): the faces are very beautiful, and the dress and composition reasonably good. There is a certain dark-eyed tearfulness that few men convey so cleverly as Mr. Le Jeune.—Mr. Hicks knows so well how to express the poetry of the genteel, that every-thing he does, with its pretty Watteauish daylight pink and cobalt, deserves attention. (180), Study for The Barley Fields, has a charming grace about it;-but avoid Hogarthian subjects and light painting, Mr. Hicks.-Mr. Pyne, always delightful and poetical when he does not melt into a coloured fog and fade away from our eyes, has done well in Venice (119): pink buildings, with melting strawberry ice running into the water, and blue-ribbon sky, that is his delight. He should be kept for two years copying Titian's backgrounds, and then sent to paint old Chester houses, that might congeal and fix his tan colour; yet his Skiddaw (174) is tolerably solid and cold but then it has not the charm of his fairy burlesque and drop scenes. When he is true, Mr. Pyne is dull; when he tells us agreeable fictions, he is amusing. We cannot leave the room without stopping to admire the mature power of the old picture of Sir E. Landseer—The Poacher's Bothy (153), vigorous, and really bearable in colour. The deer is perfect; and the sniffing apprehension of the dog is as fine as the half-fierce half-anxious look that the illicit Highlander casts at the hut

An error in the numbering of the Catalogue of the Winter Exhibition, caused us, last Saturday, to apply some words to Mr. George C. Stanfield, were due to another artist. Mr. Stanfield "is happy to say he has not turned pre-Raphaelite." We regret the mistake, though it was not of our making.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

CAMPBELL'S MINSTRELS, at ST. JAMES'S HALL, Piccadilly (organised 1844, 0. Hi Fox and E. Warden, Proprietors). The Entertainment having achieved the most complete success, will be repeated this, and every Evening, until further notice. Grand Day Performance every Saturday at Tires—Stalls, 3s., 7tas, 3s. (Gallery, 1s. Tickets and Stalls may be secured at the Hall daily from Aline Lill Three; also of Mesers. Chappell & Co., 69. New Proceedings of the Company of the Comp

Mr. SIMS REEVES and M. WIENIA WSKI at the MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, St. Jamess Hall, on MONDAY EVEN. ING NEXT, November 38, on which occasion the Instrumental Pieces will be selected from the Works of the late Dr. Sphon-Stalls, 52, Eslicony, 33; Unreserved Seats, 12, At the Hall, 28, Piecadilly; Keith, Prowse & Co. 8, Chespside; Cramer & Co., 8 Bond Street, 43, Regent Street; and Chappell & Co. 20, New

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CERNIS and the bond of the control of

ROYAL GALLERY of ILLUSTRATION. — POPULAR MUSIC of the OLDEN TIME.—Miss POOLE and Mr. RAMS-DEN will give a MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT on the 64D ENGLISH SONGS and BALLADS, interspersed with Amedda, written by W. Chappell, P.S.A., on THURSDAY EVENING, written by W. Chappell, P.S.A. on THURSDAY EVENING, The Computer of the

Miss POOLE and Mr. RAMSDEN will give their MUSICAL ENTERPAINMENT on the OLD ENGLISH SONGS and RAILADS, with Ancedote, at the GALLERY of LLUSTRA-BALLADS, Lake treet, commencing on THURSDAY EVEN-LNG, December 1, at Eight.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

"Cara Sposa," Aria ('Rinaldo'),—"Ombra
"Lara Sposa," Aria ('Rinaldo'),—"The Spar Cara" ('Il Radamisto'),—Angeletti, "The Sparrow Song" ('Rinaldo'). By G. F. Handel. (Lonsdale.)-Here are three more ingots from an inexhaustible mine; for such indeed is the treasury of Handel's compositions. The first-mentioned two of them are of the very purest gold :- a tradition declares that Handel spoke of them as "the two best songs he ever made." Truly masterly they are: showing that union of science with freedom which seems to have grown an impossibility in Both the Aria these revolutionary days of ours .from 'Rinaldo' and that from 'Il Radamisto' are slow songs, in \(\frac{3}{4} \) tempo, with accompaniments \(\text{so} \) elaborate that the supporting portion could be separately heard with pleasure. Yet, in spite of this, -so artfully is the voice treated, so excellently are the words expressed, giving the singer the freest scope for majestic declamation, beauty of tone, and individual (not subservient) reading,-(to recall the comparison of Mozart with Cimarosa, familiar to all musicians) "statue" and "pedestal" are here in their right places.—The latter is elaborate with its masks, and festoons, and symbols: —if considered by itself, a study of ornamented support. The former towers.—But while saying support. this, the old conditions of orchestral proportion must not be forgotten. Were the instrumental part of these Songs to be thickened with modern additions to the old, lean band which played them, by the same process which is necessary to such of Handel's vocal music as was written for a small chorus,—now-a-days executed by an immense one,—or which else was scored *with neglect*—that which has been admired would be lost, and lose its place. The third, or "Sparrow Song," from Handel's 'Rinaldo'-Aaron Hill's setting of the legend of Armida—is a curiosity of another kind,—the farfamed song which excited the scorn of the Spectator during the symphony of which the stage-manager let loose live sparrows (grandfithers of the birds which so delighted the town in Mr. Macready's revival of 'As You Like It').—When the perform-

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should be added to the list, as yet one more variety in a style of music hard to vary, especially in Han-del's days of limited orchestral resource. The group altogether is well worth comparing with the "Bird Song" in 'The Creation' of Haydn, who for awhile passed with connoisseurs as the creator of picture-music. Such comparison will bring out the in-comparable superiority of Handel as an inventor, —nay, and as a descriptive colourist, too. The further we go in the Giant's operas and Serenatus (stopping at the deliciously elegant "Fountain Song" in 'Admetus'), the further will this phase Song" in 'Admetus'), the further will to of his exhaustless genius brighten on us.

of his exhaustless genius brighten on us.

The Storm,—Home at Last,—A Farevell,—Be
Strong,—The Pitgrims. Poetry by Adelaide Anne
Procter. Music by Wilhelm Sculthes. (Addison
& Co.)—These five songs are far superior to the
generality of such ware. The first ballad bids
fair to be set as often as Mr. Kingsley's "Sands
of Dee" or Shelley's "I arise,"—and no wonder.
We are not sure yet that the setting has come. The one before us, however, is a picturesque song. The "Farewell," which is simpler, deserves entire praise, as a most elegant notturno for a mezzosoprano voice. The absence of vulgarity from all these songs distinguishes them:—though we have a hopeful feeling that the standard of refine-ment (as distinct from a wearisome transcendental-

ment (as distinct from a wearsome transcendenta-ism) is rising.

Morning — Hymn to Cynthia — Cradle Song: Four-Part Songs. By Henry Smart. (Cramer & Co.)—These are of the best English quality, — graceful in style, and well written for the voices,—What is more, while they are English, they are modern; a distinction hardly to be proved, but which will be felt by all who are fami-liar with the contents of the 'Convito Armonico,' and who compare Mr. Smart's 'Queen and Hunand who compare Mr. Smart's 'Queen and Hun-tress' with Danby's 'Awake, Æolian Lyre!' or Stafford Smith's 'As upon a summer day.' The examples of sustained composition in this form of music were the exceptions. It was the habit to chop up one short lyric into half-a-dozen different chop up one short lyric into half-a-dozen unierent movements; not so much, we fancy, out of regard to verbal pertinency, as because few among our elder glee-composers were sufficiently skilled in their craft to develope a given idea musically. In this respect, thanks to the German training, which of late has become the fashion, our writers surpass their predecessors. Here we have both the training and the English humour; which is not that, as we have a thousand times said, of the German part-song, whether for equal or mixed voices. Mr. H. Smart, after some uncertainty—caused, it may be, by the want of frequent opportunity for an artist to criticize himself in the production of his works— seems here to have found the right vein of English

seems here to have found the right vein of English secular vocal composition, by an Englishman.

Ye Mariners of England, as a Quartett for Mixed Voices. By H. Hugh Pierson. (Ewer & Co.)—This is the best setting of our British naval ode (written, as was 'Rule Britannia,' and, again, 'The Exile of Erin,' by a Scotchman), of which we are cognizant. Dr. Callcott's glee, though containing good phrases, is unequal; and, moreover, the distribution of voices is a managed that a many delivery. tion of voices is so managed that a manly delivery of it becomes next to impossible. The effect of Mr. Pierson's bold song was obvious at the Crystal Palace,—where it was performed without the or-chestral accompaniments, which add to its richness and spirit. But good vocal part-writing should ness and spirit. But good vocal part-writing should be able, in most cases, to go alone, whatever grace and glory be added to it by the instruments. The modern fashion of giving the singers only an equal share of duty, in a work where the song and the words ought to predominate, belongs to a time of poverty, not wealth—of ignorance, not intelligence in resource.—By such confusions colours are much

ance of 'Solomon' was last noticed [Athen. No. 1636] some of Handel's bird-music was specified, in a note on "The Nightingale Chorus." This never known these trials of taste to succeed: never known these trials of taste to succeed;— the public are not, at a single bound, to be taken back to the infancy of the drama. Mr. C. Mathews appears as the nameless Marquis, Miss Reynolds as the Marchioness, Mrs. C. Mathewsas the servant, or Lisette, and Mr. Buckstone as the valet, or Frontin. The Marchioness has been previously married, and is always in tears for her first husband, who died on a diplomatic mission. The Marpand, who died on a diplomatic mission. The Marquis enters into a plot with *Frontin, who had accompanied "the late lamented" in his travels. Accordingly, *Frontin tells his mistress a long melancholy story—that her husband is not dead, but a prisoner in Algeria, condemned to the monotonous task of in Algeria, condemned to the monotonous task of hatching eggs, from which misery he may be delivered by a ransom. This the Marquis professes himself ready to pay at once; but the Marchioness refuses, and paints "the late lamented" in the blackest colours. The moral was too obvious; and the piece failed to please. As Jasper, in 'The Bachelor of Arts,' lately revived, Mr. Mathews has been more successful.

> PRINCESS's.—On Wednesday, Mr. A. Harris, the lessee of this theatre, made essay of his powers as an actor, and appeared in the part of the Maras an actor, and appeared in the part of the Marquis de Frontiquae in the very amusing comedy of 'The Wonderful Woman.' Mr. Harrisshowstalents for acting, and supported the character with sangfroid and some intellectual force.—A new piece was introduced on Wednesday, entitled 'Gossip.' It is from the French. Mrs. C. Young, as Mrs. Chatter-ten reinsee her valuability of thomas and accuses a ton, misuses her volubility of tongue, and accuses a lady of an "assignation" in Kensington Gardens, which turns out at last to be only an "appointment" with her own husband. The latter subjects her to a salutary course of persecution, and at last re-proves her in good set terms, reading to her a moral lesson which is always popular. The curtain fell to unequivocal applause.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP .- The musical event of the month—nay, we should say, of the half-year—has been the revival of Gluck's 'Orphée' at year—has been the revival of Gluck's 'Orphee' at the Théâtre Lyrique, in Paris, which took place the other evening, with the utmost success, we are assured. So great is the importance of this as to demand a deliberate and detailed report: till such can be given, however, we are glad to avail ourselves of the impressions of an eye-witness as regards the performance. "This is universally admitted to have been a complete success," writes regards the performance and admitted to have been a complete success," writes our friend. "I happened to see yesterday a good many different representatives of public opinion, and within that circle there was only one sentiment -of unqualified admiration both of music and —of unqualified admiration both of music and execution; though I think some doubt is felt as to its general popularity. Madame Viardot by far surpassed my expectations. Her performance on Friday was, to my mind, everything it should be; full of vigorous pathos, graceful energy, and a classical propriety, quite clear of all affectation or exaggeration, that exactly befitted the part—which I should think one of extraordinary difficulty in every respect. It was fully appreciated by the audience, as well in its delicate touches as in its brilliant sallies. The first sensation (and perhaps the strongest) was produced in the air at brilliant sallies. The first sensation (and perhaps the strongest) was produced in the air at the close of the first act. This she sang so magnificently as to bring the house down, and herself three times before the curtain. I think I have probably never heard (save perhaps in my childhood Pasta or Malibran) from any woman so grand a bit of bravura singing. There is nothing like it to be heard anywhere else now-a-days. Very stately and fine was the scene with the Furies—elsewithers divirably done: the chorus and orches. words ought to predominate, belongs to a time of poverty, not wealth—of ignorance, not intelligence in resource.—By such confusions, colours are muddled, outlines are destroyed.—To return: this is a good and real song; the publication of which, we fancy, may mark a new period in the life of its composer.

Index to Current Literature.—Long since I altogether admirably done; the chorus and orchestra excellent; and 'J'ai perdu mon Euridice,' commeditated an "Index to Current Literature," and drew up a plan for the formation of a society to publish it; but laid it aside for a better opportunity to reconsider the matter. However, a skeleton of this private account—less laudatory, let us add, than subsequent ones having reference to the second performance of the opera—is borne out by structed on primitive principles, the characters

in 'Orphée' are filled by Mdlles, Sax Marimon

and Moreau.

Spohr is naturally an object of commemoration on every side. The Sacred Harmonic Society commenced its concerts yesterday evening in his honour. The singers were Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Dolby, Herr Reichardt, and Mr. Weiss. The instrumental selection for Monday's Popular Concert is to be drawn from his works. Two nights of the Promenade Concerts, which commence this evening at Drury Lane, under the orchestral conduct of Mr. Manns, are to be largely appropriated to his music. appropriated to his music.

Among the winter entertainments of promise must be announced that of Miss Poole and Mr. Ramsden, based on the excellent book on English Popular Music, by Mr. W. Chappell, who, it is stated, has himself assisted in its preparation.

stated, has himself assisted in its preparation.

The Glasgow Festival is to commence on the 24th of January. The principal vocalists engaged are, Madame 'Clara Novello, Miss Whitham, Miss Dolby, Mrs. Lockey, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Winn. The band will consist of sixty performers from our Philharmonic orchestra—the chorus of the Glasgow Choral Union, numbering 400 voices. The conductor is to be Mr. H. Albert Lambeth. On the Tuesday evening will be given Mendelssohn's oratorio, 'Elijah,'—on Wednesday, a miscellaneous concert,—on Thursday, 'Gideon,' by Mr. Charles E. Horsley,—on Friday, the 'Messiah.'

We should add to the paragraph announcing

We should add to the paragraph announcing that Herr Pauer has succeeded Mr. Cipriani Potter at the Royal Academy of Music—in his post of Professor of the Pianoforte,—that Mr. Charles Lucas has succeeded Mr. Potter in his other post of Principal of the Academy.

The casting of Mr. Bacon's colossal statue of Mendelssohn, which is to be placed in some open space in London, took place on Tuesday last.

We understand that in pursuance of the series of revivals which give so much interest to M. Carvalho's admirably managed theatre, 'Cosi fan tutte' is to be shortly taken up, with a new libretta, arranged after the play of 'Love's Labour's Lost.' At the Italian Opera in Paris, Signor Rossini's 'Un curioso Accidente' is in rehearsal; also M. Meyerbeer's 'Crociato.'—This week, too, was to be given at the Opera Conique M. Limnander's peasant opera 'Yvonne la Fermière,' which was laid aside, it may be recollected, to make way for 'Le Pardon,'—The St. Cecilian Mass, performed according to annual custom on the 22nd, was not that by M. Dietsch, as we announced, but Mozart's Thirteenth Mass. We understand that in pursuance of the series of

The music given at the Paris Schiller Festival, including M. Meyerbeer's new March and Cantata, is, we perceive, to be repeated shortly, under the direction of M. Pasdeloup.

The many friends of one of the greatest and amiable of modern musicians, Herr Ernst, will read with pleasure a paragraph, given on the authority of the Morning Post, to the effect that his health has improved by his residence at Nice, and that he has been turning retirement to account by

Belgium is about to stir in the matter of musical publication,—Government taking a direct interest in the matter. There is to be an edition of the works of the great masters of the Low Countries, beginning with those of Roland Lassus. The superintendence of this is committed to M. Fétis.

MISCELLANEA

Then, 2,000 subscribers at 21s. would produce 2,100l., which would be thus expended:—

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Thus, 2,000 subscribers would receive a book of 1,200 pages of small print, bound and delivered, for a guinea subscription, about the March or April following the year of the books indexed. Supposing the volume published also in 2s. 6d. parts monthly, and 2,000 copies sold or 2,000 more subscribers obtained, a profit would accrue sufficient to index a back year, and to present a similar volume gratis; or the best of the current periodical literature of the year might be indexed at discretion. I should prefer the matter taken in hand by a society, because private enterprise would necessarily look to the profit, and those books alone be well indexed which already are well provided—such as Messrs. Longman's, for instance—while others, as Messrs. Parker & Son's, which are so often unindexed, would be scarcely noticed. As to Messrs. Low's proposal, without wishing to be offensive, it seems to me but a rechauffe of their Publisher's Circular, with references to a few periodicals. That the Index becomes yearly more needful is evident from the increase of printing, and the decrease of books with side-notes and indexes; a matter much to be deplored.

The Temple Gardens.—The show of Chrysanthemums in the two Temple Gardens are still open to the public (free) every day from nine till dusk. Visitors are respectfully invited to an inspection of the extraordinary collection of Pompones, a dwarf variety of this beautiful Autumn flower, in the garden of the Middle Temple; the entrance to this garden is from the broad flight of steps in front of the fountain within a few minutes' walk of the larger garden and near Essex Street.

Advertised Titles of Books.—Mr. J. R. Endean, a bookseller of Chester, wishes to point out the evils of a misdescription of books in publishers' advertisements, and on covers. He says:—"To illustrate what I mean, I would name that, casually, to-day, two books passed through my hands answering fully to the above description. One was 'The Biglow Papers,' edited by James Russell Lowell, published by John Camden Hotten, Piccadilly, London, and which is advertised as published 'with Illustrations by George Cruikshank,' and upon which representation I ordered a copy. It contains only one illustration throughout its 198 pages, and that by the artist named. The second book is 'The Habits of Good Society,' published by James Hogg & Sons, London, and which has the word 'Illustrated,' in large letters on its back, the extent of illustration herein being strictly limited to 'ONE." Mr. Endean holds that this is a misdescription.

Algiers.—The rain which fell on a terrace of the street Bab-el-Oued, in Algiers on the night of the great storm has been analyzed, and found to contain a small quantity of nitric acid. Only the rain which fell while the thunder and lightning raged contains this element. That gathered next day, when the storm had abated in violence, and the electrical discharges ceased, though the water still came down in torrents, showed no trace of nitric acid.

Cathedral at Cambrai.—The fierce fire which broke out a few weeks since in the Cathedral at Cambrai—it is supposed in the organ-loft—has done serious injury to that interesting building. Some of the curiosities and antiquities were spared. Not a few, it is added, were needlessly injured by the headlong zeal of the rescuers.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. C. C.—J. J. A. W.—M. J. P.—H. O.—M. A. B.—H.—D. B. L.—F.—G. H.—J. H. W.—B. M.—M. A. C.—received,

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From M. W. Balfe, Esq.

I was truly delighted yesterday listening to your new Harmonium. I think it perfection, and feel quite sure of your carrying all before you with it.

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Bourdon, Clarion, Bassoon, Voix Céleste; Sordine, Dulciana Treble, Dulciana Bass, Expression, Knee Pedal, and Wind Indicator. The Dulciana Stop on the upper row, the same as No. 8.	60	62	65
This Instrument is also made with a complete set of German Pedals of two Octaves, and a fourth with independent Padal Reads	0*	00	100

BOOSEY & SONS, 24 and 28, Holles-street.

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